

Peres ahead of Begin in Israel poll prediction

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, June 30

As the polls closed in Israel's tenth general election tonight, initial computer predictions gave the opposition Labour Party two more seats than the ruling right-wing Likud coalition of Mr Menachem Begin in the 120-seat Knesset.

In a first reaction, Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader, claimed what he described as "a great and unprecedented victory" for the Labour movement. He said the Israeli people had given the party a moral mandate to rule the country.

As the votes were beginning to be counted and the computer predictions were updated, it appeared that Labour's showing had been stronger than that given in the original flash prediction which came over less than five minutes after the polling booths closed.

Although leading members of both parties expressed early optimism about their chances of forming the next Government, some political observers believed that the closeness of the vote would give Mr Menachem Begin's Likud the edge in gaining a viable majority.

Before polling began, prominent figures in the Labour Party admitted that they would need between seven to 10 more seats than the Likud in order to be able to form a coalition.

Tonight's computer predictions were based on a sample of 50,000 voters who were questioned at 30 different polling stations after they had voted. The prediction was prepared for the Israel Broadcasting Authority by Mr Hanech Smith, a statistician, whose methods proved remarkably accurate in predicting the result of the last election in 1977.

However, the statistician hardened his initial estimate that Labour would win 48 or 49 seats to a certainty of 49, with a possibility of 50 or 51.

This further increased the uncertainty about exactly which party leader—Mr Menachem Begin or Mr Peres—would be able to summon enough support to form the next government.

It was noted that the Arab vote appeared to have gone much more in Labour's favour and was helping the party towards a possibly vital extra seat.

Soon after the predictions were flashed on the television screens, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister of the outgoing Government, also spoke optimistically about Likud's chance of maintaining the existing right-wing coalition in power.

"If these figures remain, the Likud will form the new Government," he claimed. He added that the future Likud-led coalition could be stable and would continue to pursue the policies carried out for the past four years.

Statistics said much could hinge on the Arab vote. Traditionally, Israeli Arabs have been more favourable to the softer line advocated by Labour towards the future of the occupied West Bank and to the conditions of the Arabs living as a minority in Israel.

By midnight Israeli time it still seemed conceivable, it is ironic, that the Arab vote could prove crucial in determining which of the main parties would have the best chance of putting together a Government.

The Israeli Communist Party, the only party openly opposed to Jewish nationalism, was predicted to win five seats. A leading figure in the party which has both Arab and Jewish members, said on television that it was certain that his party would vote against Likud, but he hinted that there was a possibility it might support Labour on the floor of the Knesset.

Mr Yossi Sarid, a leading Labour Party member pledged that the party would not sell its principles in order to bring together a coalition. "We have no complaints. We are the biggest party. We are facing some difficulties and we hope to overcome them," he added.

Because of fears that the violence of the campaign would continue, some 16,000 Israeli policemen and civil guards were on duty.



Mrs Thatcher speaks to Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, on the second day of the European summit in Luxembourg.

Thatcher and Schmidt demand fairer share of EEC costs

From Michael Horasby and Peter Norman, Luxembourg, June 30

Leaders of the EEC agreed here today on the need to take new measures to reduce unemployment, while at the same time, keeping up their fight against inflation. But they were unable to resolve differences about which goal should be given most priority.

It also became clear that neither Mrs Margaret Thatcher nor Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, are as concerned about high American interest rates as their Community partners. The Prime Minister said that there was nothing to do with Europe's underlying economic problems.

Mrs Thatcher and Helmut Schmidt were also in agreement on the unfairness of the way the EEC's financial burden is shared and on the importance of redistributing them.

On the diplomatic front, the European leaders formally unveiled their much-linked proposal for an international conference on Afghanistan, aimed at securing the withdrawal of Russian troops.

Speaking after the close of the two-day summit meeting, here, Helmut Schmidt said that West Germany must have an upper limit put on its net contribution to the budget, which was now running at more than DM 6,500m (about £1,300m) a year.

"We are prepared to be the biggest contributor to the budget," the Chancellor said, "but we are not prepared to be the only unlimited net payer. There is no reason why other equally rich countries should not pay a proportionately similar amount."

Mr Schmidt also pleaded the Chancellor's case, even more warmly than his own, saying that it would "not be conducive to the future health of the Community if West Germany was to go on paying enormously higher contributions than any other member state."

The Prime Minister said that if this situation was not corrected, it would lead to the same kind of resentment in West Germany that had been felt in Britain about its budget payments. There had to be "a security between partners" and the Commission's proposal would not achieve this.

The Commission has proposed continuing budget reimbursement for Britain, but considers that West Germany is not justified in asking for similar assistance because of its overall wealth, industrial strength, and healthy share of farm receipts—the lack of which is the main cause of the British problem.

Mrs Thatcher also said that the main cause of the 1 per cent ceiling on member states' value-added tax transfers to Brussels—one of the main sources of EEC revenue—was essential. The EEC must not continue on back page, col 4

'Romans in Britain' director for trial

By Frances Gibb

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the anti-pornography campaigner, won the first round of her fight against the National Theatre over the controversial male rape scene in the play *The Romans in Britain* yesterday when Mr Michael Bogdanov, the director, was committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

Mr Bogdanov, 42, refused to comment after the ruling of Mr Kenneth Harrison, the splendidary magistrate, at the end of the two-day hearing at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, London.

Mrs Whitehouse is bringing a private prosecution against Mr Bogdanov under the Sexual Offences Act, 1956, for allegedly procuring the commission of an act of gross indecency between two actors who simulated the attempted rape of a Druid by a Roman soldier.

Yesterday she would not comment, but Mr Graham Ross-Cornes, her solicitor, who was chief witness for the prosecution because he saw the play on her instruction, said he welcomed the magistrate's decision.

The case was clearly very important, he said, "in view of the line that has to be drawn between what is acceptable and what is unacceptable. The theatre should not think it is in a privileged position."

The magistrate said he had no alternative but to send the case for trial as there was a prima facie case of gross indecency.

"It seems to me there is some evidence that should go before a jury as to whether or not Mr Bogdanov procured the commission of this offence, and it seems a matter which I should be wrong to say should not be left to a jury."

The case was a difficult one, he said. It appeared illogical on the face of it that the National Theatre, exempted from prosecution for what were sexual offences at common law and under the Vagrancy Act when these were committed during a performance while administering similar offences created by statute.

FitzGerald takes over in Dublin

From Christopher Thomas, Dublin

Dr Garret FitzGerald became Prime Minister of the Irish Republic last night, heading a coalition government that could be toppled at any time by a handful of backbenchers.

He was elected Taoiseach by 81 votes to 78 at the first sitting of the Dail since the inconclusive general election. An independent MP, Dr John O'Connell, was appointed Speaker, leaving the balance of power in the hands of five independents whose political colours vary enormously.

Mr Charles Haughey, who succeeded Mr Jack Lynch as Prime Minister 18 months ago after a bitter power battle inside the Fianna Fail parliamentary party, said expressionless throughout yesterday's proceedings.

He lost the vote proposing him as Prime Minister by 83 votes to 79. Three of the independents, Dr Noel Browne, Mr Joseph Sheehy and Mr James Kemmy, voted against him, and his one hope, a draw, was over. Only Mr Neil Blaney, the hard-line Donegal-based independent, voted for his old comrade in the 1970 arms crisis.

Dr FitzGerald captured only one independent vote when he was proposed as leader, but the rest abstained and gave him a majority that, however small, was better than he might have expected.

The coalition of Labour's 15 seats and Fine Gael's 65 is only two more than the Fianna Fail has on its own account. There is no formal pact with the independents and Dr FitzGerald will be in constant danger of defeat.

Some hard economic decisions have to be taken and the Government could quickly find itself in grave difficulties.

Mr Kenny seemed to sum up the mood of most of the independents yesterday when he told the Dail: "If the coalition goes back on its word I will be the first to pull the rug from under it. I am my own man and I will continue to be so."

The case was very simple when Mr Blaney proclaimed that he would support Mr Haughey after being assured that the Fianna Fail government would spend heavily on roads, housing, and sewerage as part of a "massive reconstruction programme" and that it would also be tougher over Northern Ireland.

The whole affair was remarkably calm and unemotional. To everybody's astonishment there was no vote on the Speaker's appointment. Dr O'Connell is a former Labour member, is widely disliked within that party, and in both political and personality terms he is thoroughly unpredictable.

As Speaker he is now virtually isolated from his fellow MPs, dining separately from them and banned from political activity.

Dr FitzGerald gave a short acknowledgment of the onerous task facing him before stepping into his Mercedes for the short drive to the official residence of President Hillery to receive the seal of office.

Dr FitzGerald's Cabinet, announced last night, is as follows: (Deputy Prime Minister) and Energy, Michael O'Leary; Finance, Barry Deane; Defence, Michael O'Leary; Health and Social Welfare, Eileen Desmond; Justice, John Bruton; Labour, John Downey; Industry and Commerce, John Kelly; Education, John Boland; Agriculture, John Mitchell; Affairs, Jim Coogan; Gaelic, Paddy Whelan; Transport and Telecommunications, John O'Connell.

Dr FitzGerald also announced the names of 13 Dail deputies whom he intends to appoint as ministers of state. Their portfolios will be announced later. The new Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Dooge, is not a member of the Dail. Dr FitzGerald will appoint him to the senate or upper house.

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Test case likely over air ticket 'bucket shops'

By Anne Warden

A court test case is expected to be brought in the next few months over the illegal sale of cut-price air tickets in "bucket shops"—businesses not registered as travel agents.

Lady Burton of Coventry, one of the leaders of a campaign for a change in the present regulations, claims she has evidence to support the case. The Thomas Cook travel group has also demanded action over what its chairman, Sir John Cuckney, has called the present "state of anarchy" in air fares.

The practice of discount selling, which often involves provision of false details to take advantage of price reduction schemes, is illegal under the Civil Aviation Authority's licensing regulations.

The controversy over "bucket shops" has been aggravated in the past year because of the "price war" with the main airlines fighting desperately to attract customers.

The unhappy airlines have in turn made problems for law-abiding travel agents, members of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), who have found that they are often the last place to which people turn for reasonably priced air tickets.

The leader of the "bucket shop" operators is Mr Riaz Dooley, who runs several cut-price ticket agencies in London. He wrote to Mr John Nott, then Secretary of State for Trade, last year asking that the regulations on the sale of discounted tickets should be abolished. He was told the Government had no intention of changing the law.

Peking denounces Mao as victim of his own personality cult

From David Bonavia, Peking, June 30

The Chinese Communist Party has delivered its most stinging criticism of the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung, calling him arrogant, labouring under misapprehensions, and too fond of his own personality cult.

None the less, it said he was a great revolutionary and a great leader and gave him credit for some of the most important successes of the Chinese revolution.

A document, running to nearly 20,000 words, lays down the most definitive assessment of Mao's role produced since his death in 1976. It follows yesterday's announcement that Mr Hua Guofeng, Mao's nominated successor as Chairman of the Communist Party, has been reduced to the status of Vice-Chairman.

Mr Hua has been accused of "leftist errors", especially in attempting to foster a personality cult around himself, and opposing Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping's insistence on pragmatic policies with the emphasis on practice and fact as the basis for political action.

Mr Hua's reduction in rank and the assessment of Mao's career were read out to the plenary session of the party Central Committee, which met here from last Saturday until yesterday.

Observers of communist affairs compare the criticism of Mao with the late Nikita Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin in 1956—though this comparison would be indelicately rejected by the present Chinese leadership, which abhors Khrushchev.

Ordinary Chinese people today showed no special interest in the denunciation of Mr Hua and the denunciation of Mao's errors. Most have known something about these matters for months past, through brief sessions organized by the party.

Mao receives most credit for his role in keeping the party united. The Red Army together with the rural areas of China, and leading them to victory through the Long March in 1935. But the role of other revolutionary heroes—such as the late Chou En-lai and the late Marshal Zhu De—is emphasized.

Mao is also praised for his resistance to the leftist line pushed in the early 1930s by the Chinese representatives of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

though Stalin's many errors in his treatment of the Chinese revolution are not gone into. The early period of the People's Republic of China, after the defeat of the late Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang (Nationalist) forces in 1949, is also approved as successful in the new party document. Rural landlords were suppressed, civil order was by and large restored, and the state began its expropriation of capital assets in the industrial areas.

Mao is described as having gone seriously wrong from 1957 onwards—branding leading intellectuals as "rightists", forcing the peasants into communes, ignoring domestic realities, and disgracing loyal followers who voiced opposition. The Cultural Revolution, which is considered to have lasted from 1966 until Mao's death in 1976, is referred to as a "long-drawn-out and grave blunder."

Chou En-lai is given credit for having tried to protect some of Mao's many high-level victims in the party, but even he could not stop the holocaust, from which China is still gradually recovering.

Photographs page 5

Syria lifts siege in Lebanon

The Syrians lifted their siege of the Christian town of Zahle in central Lebanon, imposed here three months ago. Several hundred Lebanese army troops entered the town as about 70 Christian militiamen left for Beirut. The move was the result of mediation by the Saudi and Kuwaiti ambassadors to Lebanon.

Union vote for electoral college

The National Union of Railwaysmen, in the moderate camp on the Labour leadership issue, has dropped its opposition to the electoral college for electing the party leader. A motion supporting MPs being given the highest say in the college, and backed by the union leadership, was defeated by six votes.

Moscow says US delaying talks

President Brezhnev blamed the United States for the delay in starting talks on limiting nuclear arms in Europe. He said the Russians were ready to negotiate tomorrow and he was disappointed that his proposal for a moratorium on the deployment of nuclear medium-range missiles had not been taken up in the West.

Need to review police back-up

An urgent review was needed of police procedures for getting reinforcements quickly into an area where violence had broken out, Lord Scarman said yesterday at the Brixton inquiry, after hearing that one group of policemen were paired with missiles for two hours before reinforcements arrived.

Reform at the reform

poet and "two large bossy" from the Social Democratic Party are among the first of nine women who have been proposed as members for a Reform Club. The club had to admit women at the end of April after prolonged discussion.

Borg, McEnroe, Connors through

The first three seeds in the men's singles are through to the semi-final round at Wimbledon. Bjorn Borg, Peter Panatta, Jimmy Connors defeated Vijay Amritraj and John McEnroe eliminated Johan Kriek. The other semi-finalist is Rod Flavelly.

Tories cheer Sikorski ashes decision

By George Clark, Political Correspondent

The decision of Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, not to allow the remains of General Wladyslaw Sikorski, the anti-Communist Polish wartime leader, to be returned to Poland was greeted by cheers from Conservative MPs in the Commons.

In a written Parliamentary answer, which Mr Whitelaw disclosed in advance when he answered questions for the Prime Minister, the official reason was: "I am unconvinced at the present time that the relevant criteria for meeting the application have yet been satisfied."

Mr Whitelaw said it was an extremely difficult decision to take.

While the Conservatives thoroughly approved of the decision, some Labour MPs were critical. Mr David Wicks, left-wing Labour MP for Walsall, North, said: "Considering the changes that have occurred in Poland in the last 10 months, it would have been appropriate for the remains to be returned."

SDP criticizes Labour invitation to communists

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Labour Party's decision to invite representatives of the Soviet and Chinese communist parties for the first time as observers to Labour's annual conference in September was seized on yesterday by Dr David Owen and Mr William Rodgers, two of the joint leaders of the social democrats, as evidence of the slide to the left which had driven them both to leave Labour.

Mr Rodgers, speaking in London, said the decision was a symptom of Labour's decline.

Dr Owen, speaking in Sheffield, said that something which a few years back would have provoked outbursts of anger was not now even "big news." It is glossed over as part of a trend. We can go on shuffling these incidents off or read it as we should, a clear sign of the slide towards a party democracy.

Dr Owen said the possibility that a Communist would, at some future date, be a member of a British government could no longer be ignored. There was, anyhow, a very real possibility of the Communist Party having a powerful influence over a British government.

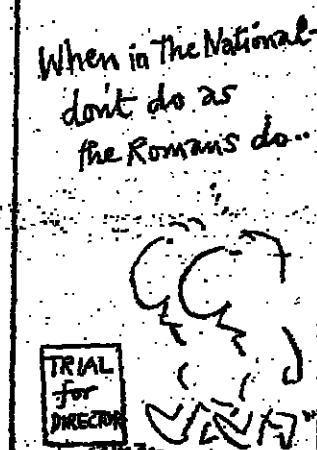
"It is now clear that the Communist Party are taking to the political arena within the Labour Party. The undemocratic 'trade union-dominated' electoral college (for choosing Labour's leader and deputy leader) presents them with a golden opportunity and they are using it."

A delegation of 14 members of the Parliamentary Labour Party are to visit the Soviet Union next month at the invitation of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the nearest thing the Russians have to a parliament.

Mr Denis Healey, the shadow spokesman on foreign affairs, at first considered leading the delegation but later dropped out because of doubts about its usefulness and also because of his preoccupation with his campaign for the deputy leadership.

Instead, Mr David Davies, his deputy on Labour's front bench, is likely to be leader. The most senior member of the party will be Mr David Ennals, a former Cabinet minister.

Labour believes that useful discussions might be held on nuclear disarmament and European security.



"It might also seem absurd that if Mr Bogdanov had been a woman, he would have no case to answer. But that appears to be law and I must interpret it as it stands."

He awarded the prosecution their costs out of public funds. The case is not expected to come up before the autumn.

After the ruling, Mr Michael Elliott, general administrator of the National Theatre, reiterated the theatre's support of Mr Bogdanov, whose costs it is paying. He noted the magistrate's reluctance to commit the case to trial and endorse his view as to the illegality and absurdity of the law in this particular case.

Full report, page 4

Million pay homage to Iran dead

From Tony Allaway, Tehran, June 30

Over a million black-clad mourners today paid homage to the dead of Sunday's bomb attack in Tehran as most of the bodies were buried in the city's huge Behesht Zehra cemetery.

The huge funeral procession that followed the fleet of ambulances carrying the bodies took almost three hours to wind its way through the city to the cemetery from the Parliament building where it started early in the morning. Some of the white-shrouded bodies were still being laid out on the ground in the afternoon.

Speaking from the Parliament building to the huge crowd, the Speaker, Hojatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, condemned the "brutal massacre" but said it would not weaken the determination of those left behind.

The mass of people in front of the building, flanked by military police and troops clutching flowers, shouted: "Death to America. America is defeated."

Ayatollah Khomeini, in a message marking the funeral, indirectly condemned the Mujahidin. Khomeini said that the Mujahidin who support the President Bani-Sadr as "true enemies of the people". Although the Mujahidin have not been directly accused of the bombing, they are thought most likely to have been responsible.

The Ayatollah added: "We are not afraid of being martyred. Continued on back page, col 1."

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Rail union drops opposition to Labour electoral college

From David Felton, Labour Reporter, St Andrews

The National Union of Railmen, which is firmly in the moderate union camp on the Labour leadership issue, last night decided to drop its opposition to the new electoral college for electing the party deputy leader.

Delegates at the union's annual conference at St Andrews voted against a motion, supported by the union leadership, that the policy of supporting MPs being given the biggest say in the college should continue.

The conference will today decide what formula to support for the college and judging by last night's decision will probably fall into line with most unions who now support 40 per cent of the college votes going to trade unions and the remainder being equally divided between MPs and constituency Labour parties.

The decision, which was carried by only six votes, came as a blow to Mr Sidney Weighell, the union's general secretary, who has consistently argued that MPs should have at least half the votes in the electoral college.

After the expected decision today to switch to 40-30-30, delegates will then have to decide whether to swing their support either behind Mr Wedgwood Benn or Mr Denis Healey. Indications last night were that if the decision is taken at this week's conference the union will support Mr Healey in the leadership battle.

Delegates opposing the leadership's attempt to reverse the decision taken at the special Labour Party conference at

Wembley in January argued that party unity would be best served if there was no more wrangling over the composition of the electoral college.

Mr Peter Parker, Chairman of British Rail, yesterday appealed to railway workers not to take industrial action which could jeopardize the future of the industry, but at the same time gave a warning that further job losses in the state-owned enterprise were inevitable.

Speaking to the annual conference of the NUR, the largest rail union, Sir Peter said: "This is the time for cool heads, not cold feet. There has never been a time when there was so much spare road haulage capacity ready at a moment's notice to pounce on even one traditional traffic in the event of strikes."

Sir Peter, who is due to retire in September, but has been negotiating with the Government for a large salary increase, also said that he hoped to be able soon to clarify his future.

He bluntly told the NUR delegates at St Andrews that he expected the union to continue its traditional responsible approach to the industry's difficulties.

One fact is more certain now than ever before; depriving the public of their rail services through strikes is the quickest way to convince the customer and politicians that may be some of those services are not indispensable," he said.

Any Government attempt to restrict the operations of the closed shop will be met by

industrial action, Mr Weighell, general secretary of the NUR, said.

He said the closed shop agreement covering British Rail's 230,000 workers ensured that the three rail unions honoured pay and conditions agreements.

Mr Weighell told the union conference delegates: "We have told the British Railways Board that not one dot comma in the agreement is going to be altered."

A report that British Rail's famous British breakfast was to be phased out had Sir Peter Parker spluttering over his breakfast. He had heard nothing about it.

He said he got the news from a report in *The Times* and said: "I love our breakfast. They are the best things we do. We should have them 24 hours a day."

He said he thought a phasing out over five years of the cooked breakfast, which now costs more than £5, was one of a number of proposals being considered by Travellers Fare catering clients.

However, the proposal had not yet come to the BR board, and he would not comment on what he thought of it until he had seen all the details.

Mr Ken Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, said yesterday after meeting representatives of London Transport unions and management that he was hopeful agreement could be reached on their pay negotiations before the threatened Underground strike on July 26 (Christopher Worman, Local Government Correspondent, writes).



Mr Stanley Sorrell (centre), the Conservative candidate, continuing his by-election campaign with a smile yesterday.

Warrington Tory strong on law and order

From John Chartres, Warrington

Mr Stanley Sorrell, the London bus driver adopted by the Conservatives as their man in the Warrington by-election, is on bookmakers' odds the least likely of the three main candidates to become an MP, but yesterday he did introduce a new dimension into what is clearly going to be a long drawn-out affair.

At the rather exceptional hour of 8.45pm (when the Tories now hold their conferences to accommodate a rapidly-growing international press corps who also want to talk to other people) Mr Sorrell declared that next to unemployment, law and order was going to be the dominant issue in this important by-election.

He favours capital punishment for all convicted murderers, the restoration of the birch for young offenders and the introduction of short, sharp,

army glasshouse-style prison sentences, without benefits, colour television or opportunities for inmates to study to become lawyers.

Mr Roy Jenkins, the Social Democrat Party, who is next on the calling list for the early rising journalists, discovering the beauties of the morning light on the river Mersey, and the Manchester Ship Canal, admitted yesterday that his and showed that a substantial proportion of the electorate would still probably vote Labour.

Mr Ken Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, said yesterday after meeting representatives of London Transport unions and management that he was hopeful agreement could be reached on their pay negotiations before the threatened Underground strike on July 26 (Christopher Worman, Local Government Correspondent, writes).

very quickly in Warrington as a step towards replacing the 8,000 jobs he claims have been lost since Britain entered the EEC and then became controlled by a Conservative Government.

Lord George-Brown, born in Warrington, last night put some beef into Mr Jenkins's campaign, describing the Labour Party as nothing more than a left-wing organized conspiracy (Craig Semon writes).

Announcing that the smell of the sawdust was in his nostrils again, he tore into a ferocious denunciation of Labour, which he said was beyond redemption. It had been permeated by non-democrats.

He accused his former party of still fighting the old battles and the mounting old slogans. "The SDP can offer something the Labour Party is not offering, will not offer, and cannot offer," he said.

Asked if his role on the hustings for the SDP meant he was interested in a senior position within it, he said: "I am here to help them out. But do not write me off."

Then he left for a council housing estate for a session of door-knocking, shaking hands, kissing the ladies and general banter about the need to support Mr Jenkins.

Within minutes he had two pledges from former Labour voters that they would support the new party. One, Mrs Winifred Healey, said that of her six sons three were still looking for jobs; she would change her vote because there was nothing else.

Two other women, however, gave him his marching orders and another, asked by Lord George-Brown if she knew him, replied: "Of course I do, Mr Jenkins."

Union leaders line up against cash limits

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

TUC leaders yesterday took the first steps towards ensuring a common front against the use in the coming pay round of cash limits to hold down public sector pay.

The Civil and Public Services' Association (CPSA) will decide today whether to press on tomorrow through the council of Civil Service Unions for an all-out strike against the Government's 7 per cent offer.

At the same time, however, the executive of the union, the largest Civil Service union, last night approved a motion for the Trade Union Congress in September calling for a coordinated campaign next year by public service workers against cash limits.

The motion says that the "monolithic application of cash limits" has revealed "a weakness in the public service unions which are now being picked off because of failure to obtain real cooperation or a common stance."

At the same time the TUC Public Services Committee at its meeting yesterday reflected growing pressure by civil servants' leaders for unity embracing town hall workers and others in the next pay round by declaring that "a more tightly coordinated response would be needed."

The CPSA executive will urge congress to consider means of pooling strategy, resources and organization among the main unions in public services, as duties, before the coming pay round, from nationalized industry is under way.

British Airways yesterday cancelled more than 120 flights

as further action by air traffic control staff halted half the normal traffic in the morning at Heathrow, and over 60 per cent during the afternoon.

The CPSA, however, is expected to decide today to put a motion for an all-out strike and to question whether the new level of financial support for continued selective action can be sustained.

The Council of Civil Service Unions yesterday called for a meeting with Mr Francis Pym, the Paymaster General, to press its view that the Government is unnecessarily allowing a strike by computer staff at Crawley to halt payment of pensions to nearly one million public servants including retired policemen, teachers and armed forces officers.

The Government announced yesterday that it intends to amend the Remuneration of Teachers Act 1965 so as to bring teachers' pay and other conditions of service under a single negotiating body, but that the necessary legislation may not be introduced in time to affect the 1982 pay round (Our Education Correspondent writes).

Trade union negotiators will ignore and deride appeals by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Confederation of British Industry for wage restraint this winter, Mr Clive Jenkins, the white collar member, predicted yesterday (Our Labour Editor writes).

"I do not believe any responsible union would give any weight whatsoever to this advice," he said. "It is clearly against the national interest to reduce demand."

Prior calls new union talks

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Employment, is to call in leaders of industry and commerce for talks on the shape and content of a new round of legislation on the trade unions.

Mr Prior is pleased that his step-by-step policy on curbing trade union power has received general assent among employers.

Yesterday was the deadline for the submission of representations on the Green Paper on trade union immunities, published in January. Practically all the evidence has come from employers, managers and commercial groups and in the main it favours the Government's up to the 1980 Employment Act.

Mr Prior now intends to study the written submissions, particularly that of the CBI which comes out against the closed shop, with the main interest groups to see if there is a consensus on such issues as union membership agreements.

The Government then has to decide whether to publish a White Paper outlining its intentions, or move directly to a Bill which would be announced in the Queen's Speech in November.

Mr Prior is working on two main areas of legislative activity: the closed shop and union-only labour contracts. The CBI's reference to an inquiry into public sector pay and the possibility of a national forum bringing together employers, unions and Government.

Commons sketch Heseltine faces an ayatollah

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

As a fundamentalist prosecutor, Mr Gerald Kaufman, Opposition spokesman on the environment, is never likely to come up to the standards of an Iranian ayatollah; but he is certainly working hard at it, and yesterday, as he opened the debate on Mr Michael Heseltine, he was clearly within an ace of demanding that the Secretary of State for the Environment should be hanged by his eyeballs in the desert sands, there to be left to the mercy of the masses.

Mr Heseltine, of course, is a favourite target for Opposition riddlers, with his golden locks and his Tarzan image. His head will certainly be one of the first to roll when the revolution comes but until that unhappy day arrives he is not an easy man to tackle by any more democratic means.

To anyone not steeped in the intricacies of Greater London politics, it was not easy to discover exactly why anyone should be censuring Mr Heseltine. It all had to do with what he had said in a speech in the House of Commons last week, and what Sir Horace Cuthbert, former Tory leader of the GLC, had said or had not said to him and what they had all said to a host of other dignitaries and officials of various London local authorities.

Mr Heseltine, it seemed, had made some sort of a pledge that he would withdraw a proposal to transfer £3,428 GLC dwellings to the local boroughs if Sir Horace asked him to do so. That seemed to be eminently sensible and democratic, at least to Tory MPs.

Unfortunately for Mr Heseltine, in between the pledge and the transfer, the Greater London elections took place and Mr Ken Livingstone replaced Sir Horace. The Secretary of State then took what seemed to be another eminently sensible decision. He decided that what applied to Sir Horace did not apply to Mr Livingstone.

So far, so good. But then on to the scene came Ayatollah Kaufman, calling for the head of Mr Heseltine, the great Satan of the Tory party, and referring to his acts of crude parasitism and wanton betrayal of the electorate.

Like President Bantadr before him, Mr Heseltine was clearly guilty just because he looked as though he ought to be and also because once upon a time, in a fit of juvenile exuberance, he had seized the Mace and waved it around his head. Obviously, no complaint to hold high office.

As it turned out, however, Mr Heseltine seemed to be making quite a good case for himself. The defence, of course, was even more involved than the prosecution, with lots of references to letters, quotes taken out of context and other political horri-fics.

Mr Heseltine pleaded that his pledge was in the context of Sir Horace discovering "a mouse cost of which he was unaware". The final blow for Mr Kaufman was a letter from Sir Horace to Mr Heseltine stating that the Environment Secretary had not misled the House and that he (Sir Horace) had not asked for the transfer proposal to be withdrawn.

Mr Heseltine suggested that the only reason Labour MPs had launched the attack upon him was that it was the only issue on which the Opposition could claim to be united. The Secretary of State then replied that Mr Kaufman's book, which he had written called *How to be a Minister*, in which he told how to make a winding up speech: "Your final paragraph should be grandiose, even if almost meaningless."

He was in the process of converting the sentence into a life's work. Mr Heseltine concluded: For the first time Mr Kaufman has the grace to look abashed.

The censure motion condemning the conduct of the Secretary of State was rejected by 317 votes to 228, a government majority of 89.

Be firm on Brandt, Tories say

By Our Political Editor

The Government should adopt a much more positive approach to the problems of developing countries, the Conservative Group for Europe said yesterday.

The group, whose members include 125 MPs, said Britain is in a special position to contribute North-South solutions because it is the only important country to be represented at three summit meetings at which the Brandt Report proposals will be discussed this year. These are the world economic summit in Ottawa in July; the Commonwealth conference in Melbourne in September; and the Mexico summit on the Brandt proposals in October.

Conservative anti-Europeans, in the European Reform Group, said yesterday that the vital substantial progress should be made, in reforming the EEC, if it was not to suffer disintegration. It was becoming more unpopular and unacceptable throughout the Community.

The Commission's proposals for reform offered major problems for the British group. The formula was likely to offer less than the temporary rebates secured by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister. Since membership Britain had paid in about £3,000m more than it had received.

Science report

Paranoia is linked with deafness

From Clive Cookson of "The Times Higher Education Supplement" Washington

An experiment in the United States has provided evidence for the theory that many old people become paranoid because they gradually lose their hearing without realising it.

Stanford University psychologist Philip Zimbardo and Susan Anderson, working with Loren Kaban of the State University of New York, induced symptoms of paranoia in healthy young men by making them temporarily and partially deaf through hypnosis without telling them what had happened.

The men reacted with confusion and hostility to the people around them, echoing the behaviour that often develops over a far longer period in elderly patients, whose sense of hearing gradually fails.

The experimental procedure, described in this week's *Science*, was quite complicated. Dr Zimbardo selected 18 volunteers whom he could hypnotize easily, making them forget what had happened after the hypnosis was finished. All responded normally to standard psychological tests, with no indications of incipient paranoia.

The psychologists told the participants they were taking part in a study of the effects of hypnosis on "creative problem solving". Their task was to tackle anagrams and make up stories together.

The students were divided into three groups of six each. One, the experimental group, was hypnotized to suffer partial deafness for a period, after being given a post-hypnotic cue. The second, a control group, was hypnotized in the same way but, unlike the first, was warned that temporary loss of hearing might be an incidental result of the hypnosis.

For the third group the post-hypnotic suggestion (a compulsion to scratch an itchy ear) had nothing to do with deafness. It was also a control group, set to just in case the mere process of hypnosis might unexpectedly induce paranoid behaviour.

The researchers also employed collaborators, whom the students thought had been hypnotized and were experienced subjects themselves, who had been primed to talk and joke together during the problem-solving sessions. Their association was supposed to sow the seeds of a conspiracy in the minds of the potentially paranoid subjects.

The behaviour of the experimental group was strikingly different from the two control groups. The six students who had been deaf without knowing it showed far more agitation and hostility, according to psychologists who observed them. They scored highly on the standard tests for paranoia.

The six who were warned about possible deafness had no difficulty coping with the temporary handicap and they demonstrated no paranoid symptoms. Nor did the third group that had been hypnotized to scratch an ear.

Dr Zimbardo and his colleagues claim that their laboratory procedure, despite its artificiality, is analogous to the predicament of old people who are losing their hearing.

Often they do not recognize what is happening, and in some cases they refuse to acknowledge their deafness, even to themselves, because they do not want to admit that they are failing physically.

Then they decide that the world whirling around them is involved in a great conspiracy at their expense, and paranoia begins. Source: *Science* (vol. 212, pages 1529-1531).

ABORTION FIGHT

Mrs Jill Knight, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Edgbaston, will oppose a move today to amend the 1967 Abortion Act. Mrs Knight, who is a Labour MP for Barking, will seek leave under the 10-minute rule to introduce a Bill making the provision of abortion facilities under the Act unlawful throughout Britain.

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THE CIVILISED GATE

Print union leader voices dissent over 'Observer'

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

Mr William Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades and chairman of the TUC print union, said last night that he was "disappointed" by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report on the transfer of the *Observer* to Lorch and shared the minority view expressed by the dissenting members, Dr Robert Marshall, who did not believe that the safeguards would be effective.

Mr Keys said he had been apprehensive when Mr Roland Tinsley Rowland, chairman of the white collar member, Dr Robert Marshall, who did not believe that the safeguards would be effective.

He said: "I think the commission was illogical in reaching the decision it did, bearing in mind the evidence of the report." But he expected Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, to draw up firm conditions of editorial independence.

Journalists on the paper are this week to press Mr Biffen to draw up further safeguards of the paper's editorial independence under Lorch's ownership.

Mr Donald Treford, the editor, is to meet Mr Biffen today and leaders of the National Union of Journalists' chapel (office branch) will see him tomorrow. The chapel yesterday

approved a list of recommended safeguards beyond those proposed in the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report, including demand for full participation in the selection of independent directors.

After what was described by chapel officials as an "amiable and constructive meeting" with Mr Tinsley Rowland, the chairman of the chapel said: "We accept the change of ownership as a fait accompli but we believe that there are serious questions in the report which we are anxious to see rectified."

The chapel agreed further to seek written conditions of the sale that would provide for two additional board members elected by the journalists; the appointment of the editor to be subject to the approval of at least one-third of the editorial staff; and for meetings between the editor and journalists and the independent directors to be every two months rather than "at least quarterly" as proposed in the commission's report.

Mr John Smith, the Shadow Secretary of State for Trade, said yesterday that he did not support Mr Biffen's approval of the sale.

"I am more impressed by the minority conclusion of the Monopolies Commission," he said. "One of the commissioners said he doubted if you could have proper safeguards for a situation like this."

British film quota halved

By Our Arts Reporter

A surprise government decision to reduce the British film quota from 30 to 15 per cent yesterday drew a sharp comment from one of the main film unions.

Mr Alan Sapper, general secretary of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, said the

Government had given a slap in the face to the British film industry.

The quota is the minimum percentage of films originating in Britain of the EEC which the exhibitors are required to show on circuit.

An order giving effect to the cut was laid before Parliament yesterday.

Conflict over TV news

By Kenneth Goshing

If there is one thing Peter Jay is fervently sure about, it is that the Independent Television casting authority should have given the TV-AM company the go-ahead to begin breakfast television next year, and not have it wait until May, 1983.

Although it means there is more time to lay the foundations of the new service, he is convinced that the Independent Television company will be around next spring to be their breakfast arm in the battle with the BBC.

Now the more detailed discussions have begun with architects about the studios being built on the Henly's garage and repair shop site in Camden Town; with fellow directors and future presenters and with Independent Television News who, he says, have a different concept of television journalism from his own company.

ITN, he explains, wants to hand over a conventional news package occupying about eight or 10 minutes an hour; but that would mean handing over the editorial responsibility and accepting what ITN thinks news is all about.

If someone else is doing it, then they are setting the agenda; now the debate is about what form the cooperation will eventually take and Jay's concern has been to get the discussions down to concrete detail.

Jay appreciates that news in the morning has to be conveyed gently, no one stem will run for more than 10 minutes and the average will be between five and six. The news will be in headlines, not bulletins, and great importance is attached to what he likes to call "the basic journalistic mission" — not merely reporting the news, but explaining events and their inter-relationship.

FitzGerald on Ulster Shadow of tragedy

From Christopher Thomas, Dublin

Dr Garrett FitzGerald, who was yesterday elected Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, made only one speech in Northern Ireland during the general election campaign. Selected extracts from the speech, made in Roscommon on June 5, are as follows:

The history of the Northern Ireland tragedy hangs over our growing instability and it has become impossible to consider the state of society in the south without reference to Northern Ireland, to the failures and distortions of its government in handling the problem.

When we see the frightening violence of Belfast and Derry being re-enacted in the centre of parts of Ireland, the growing horror that the troubles of the North have spread beyond the border. When we are told that by the next Pleana Fail annual conference we will be able to see the way forward to Irish unity more clearly, without any indication of how it is to be achieved, two entirely predictable and disastrous results follow:

The men of violence and the intimidators, north and south, are encouraged by the evident irresponsibility of the government to pursue their evil campaigns.

The Unionists of Northern Ireland, those who should be reconciled by Dublin to considering a common future with us, are provoked to further intransigence. Irish unity is once again postponed.

It is of course right that the British and Irish governments should have close contact on all matters concerning Northern Ireland. It is a profound mistake, however, to conceal from our own people and from the people of Northern Ireland the broad lines of the content of these discussions which many are clearly apprehensive and about which they have a perfect right to be informed. It is the grossest irresponsibility to promote, purely for short term political gain, suggestions and rumours that these discussions are leading inexorably

to dramatic changes in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland.

The Irish Government and its dealings with London should be seen with a prudent scepticism about British purposes... even the Unionists of Northern Ireland have begun to learn that it is foolish to place too much reliance on Britain.

When in government Fine Gael served the British people and Ireland and we shall do so again. There are two important differences however: First we have been more subtle about the British. We have always known that Britain will put her interests before Irish interests. We do not and we shall not place an exclusive or inordinate reliance on Britain in our approach to Northern Ireland.

The second difference is that we have always understood that the future of Northern Ireland will not be shaped by politicians or civil servants in London, but by the people of Northern Ireland.

It is lamentable that Fine Gael failed to sustain the relationships we had established with the British people. Without such relationships, no amount of talks or joint studies with London, no raising of the problem to higher places of whatever altitude will bring progress where it finally matters, that is down on the ground in Northern Ireland.

No government in Dublin can hope to play a useful role in Northern Ireland if it is seen, through political weakness or indecision, to be allowing intimidation, instability or uncertainty to unsettle its own people. "We shall continue the talks with London but we shall not conceal what we are about from our people or from the people of Northern Ireland. In our dealings with London we shall be prudent but resolute. As soon as I am elected I shall convey to Mrs Thatcher that her present attitude risks alienating an entire community in Northern Ireland. I shall tell her to heed the voice of John Hume and to give hope to the majority of the Catholics of Northern Ireland who reject violence and who long for peaceful political progress."

BMA to launch inquiry on value of civil defence

From Nicholas Timmins, Brighton.

The British Medical Association is to launch a detailed inquiry into the medical effects of nuclear war, whether the Government's "civil" defence against it is of any value.

The decision was taken by the 600 doctors at the BMA's annual representative meeting in Brighton with only four votes against.

Aside from other government spending on civil defence, the Department of Health and Social Security is providing £400,000 to help authorities to organise health services in a nuclear war, but some doctors are questioning whether effective health care can be given after a nuclear attack.

The inquiry is to be headed by Sir John Stallworthy, chairman of the BMA's board of science, who yesterday described it as probably the most important task the board had undertaken. Expert witnesses would be co-opted if necessary and an assessment made of all the international evidence.

Doctors, he said, were informed about the medical effects of nuclear war, although such knowledge might be the only hope for survival.

Sir John made it plain that he would not consider requests not to publish information on the grounds that it might panic the public. "If we find something which we believe ought to be published, then we would publish it."

A background paper put to the Board of Science describes the probable outcome of the Government's existing plans for the "health" services as "extremely dubious".

A 20-megaton explosion over central London would either destroy or put out of action all the main central London hospitals and those as far away as Whips Cross and St. Helier, Carshalton, would be seriously

damaged by blast alone.

"It is anticipated that bomb shelters in cities under nuclear attack would be useless owing to the blast heat and radiation effects throughout most of the United Kingdom. Shelters as far as 10 km from the centre of even a one-megaton nuclear explosion would become ovens for their occupants—the great surface fires would cook and asphyxiate them."

Plans to disperse medical supplies and equipment were based on outdated assumptions. For example, anaesthetic gases are no longer supplied in easily transportable cylinders but as piped supplies in fixed installations. The concentration of specialist centres into district general hospitals had centralised them and made them all vulnerable to destruction.

A study of the probable effect of a nuclear attack on Boston in the United States had estimated that only one doctor would survive for every 1,700 severely injured people and that the ratio of surviving nurses to the severely injured would be even worse.

Plans to disperse doctors and nurses into rural areas cannot possibly succeed, the paper suggests. Such an operation could not be carried out in secret; most of the population would be told to follow and widespread civil disturbance would be likely.

During the debate, Dr. Jacqueline Chambers, a trainee community physician from Westminster, London, told the conference that the public was being told to "Protect and Survive".

Doctors were increasingly being asked to get involved in contingency planning for a nuclear war.

If the study came to the conclusion that something useful

could be done, the public should be told. "If we feel that any semblance of human life or civilised medical services will cease to exist, then we must tell the British public that they have been and are being conned by the Government," Dr. Chambers said.

Mr. Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Transport, was accused of being an "accessory to murder" by opposing seat belt legislation (the Private Members' Bill).

Dr. Stanislaw Gebert, a hospital consultant, told the BMA meeting: "It is no longer the time to use polite terms and be gentlemanly about the continuous preventable carnage."

"It is time for anger, it is time to tell the Minister of Transport that his failure to enforce the wearing of seat belts is tantamount to being an accessory to murder. And murder it is—mass murder."

Dr. Gebert, consultant at Peterborough Infirmary, said that the Government's seat belt legislation was a "pity" for children under 12 in front seats were pitifully inadequate. Legislators should stop playing charades and introduce the compulsory wearing of seat belts.

He was supporting a motion from Bristol doctors expressing "shock at the failure of continuous governments to introduce legislation to enforce the use of seat belts."

The motion was passed overwhelmingly.

With more than one person in 10 in Britain suffering from some kind of allergy, a clinic to help sufferers throughout the country opens in Derby on July 15 (Our Derby Correspondent writes).

It will be the first comprehensive allergy clinic in Britain and will be called the Asthma and Allergy Research Treatment and Research Centre.



Photograph by Barry Sealte

Needlewomen restoring George IV's coronation robe for the Royal School of Needlework's "Royal Connections" exhibition opening in London today. Right to left are: Selma Winter, Jean Baker, Valerie Gamlyn and Mary Meredith.

Palace birthday party for Lady Diana

By a Staff Reporter

Lady Diana Spencer will celebrate her twentieth birthday tonight with a small party for friends and family at Buckingham Palace.

Guests will include her mother, Mrs. Frances Shand Kydd, and her sisters, Lady Jane, who is married, to Mr. Robert Fellowes, the Queen's assistant Private Secretary, and Lady Sarah. Lady Diana had considered holding the party at Highgrove, the Prince of Wales's country home in Gloucestershire, but decided that Buckingham

Palace was convenient for her guests. The Prince, who is in Newcastle upon Tyne today opening an exhibition organized by the city's council for the disabled, will return to London this evening for the party.

It was revealed yesterday that Broadlands, the family home of the late Lord Mountbatten, will be closed to the public for the week of the royal wedding. That has led to speculation that the couple plan to spend some time there after the wedding.

In November, 1947, the house was used by the Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, and Prince Philip, for the start of their honeymoon.

The actress Lorraine Chase will join the BBC radio commentators in royal wedding broadcasts on July 29, the Press Association reports. She will team up with Terry Wogan, Wynford Vaughan-Thomas, Peter Jones, and Rolf Harris. Robert Hudson will be inside St Paul's Cathedral.

Boy killed after fall QC says

From Our Correspondent St Albans

Bernard Macanaspie told the police that he killed Stephen Edmondston after the boy fell down stairs while helping him move a chest of drawers. St Albans Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr. Macanaspie said he panicked and stabbed the boy to stop him twitching, the prosecution alleged. Then he undressed the body to make it look like a sex crime and dumped it in a field.

Mr. Macanaspie, aged 29, of Milwards, Harlow, Essex, pleads not guilty to murdering Stephen, aged nine, who lived next door. His plea of guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility has been rejected by the prosecution.

Mr. Martin Graham, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr. Macanaspie later changed his story and said he had been working in his loft. As he jumped down, he landed on Stephen who was standing on the banister trying to get into the loft.

Mr. Macanaspie had said at one stage that he intended to tell Stephen's mother what he had done.

Mr. Anthony Edmondston, the boy's father, told the jury of his friendship with Mr. Macanaspie and how their families had gone on holiday together to Great Yarmouth. After Mr. Macanaspie's wife had left him, Mr. Edmondston told him he could have meals in his house. "We told him our house was his house."

The hearing continues.

45 years inside. Life and crimes of top burglar

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

At 69 years old, William Featherstone, top people's burglar, has decided to retire after spending 45 years of his life locked up.

He has been on bread and butter since the roof of Dartmoor demonstrating about "brutality" and got himself into trouble for protesting at an official flogging by smashing the doctor's and governor's windows, calling them fascists.

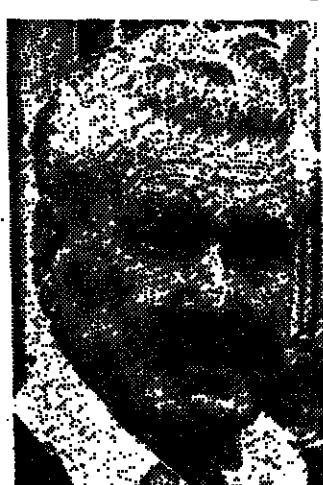
He has watched condemned men at exercise and knew by a light in a room kept for the hangman's overnight stay when he had come. He has seen prisoners quarrelling over the remains of a condemned man's special dinner, left outside his cell for collection.

He has tried to escape four times, once through a window in the High Court, but never got very far, not even when he made his getaway down Fleet Street, shouting "stop thief".

What spurred him on in his criminal career was a wish to pull off "the jackpot", to give him the freedom that paradoxically he lost. Brought up in the depression, he wanted to avoid grinding poverty.

The nearest he got to the jackpot was a £32,000 post office raid in 1957, but an elderly woman in a darkened window opposite noticed him and his partner, loading the proceeds into a car, even though they were wearing postmen's uniforms. The result: 14 years in prison.

He had subverted an upright mine official into telling him how to use explosives. Until the train robbers came inside,



Mr. Featherstone: University of crime at museums.

safelockers were the prison's biggest haul.

William Featherstone's working gear was denim, a Balmain helmet, rubber-soled shoes and cheap gloves—all to be disposed of later. His targets were chosen by reading the social gossip pages of the *Gleaner*, the *Tatler* and *Harpers & Queen*. Women got out their best jewelry from safe-deposits for the big occasion.

To learn about silver (George III and IV is his favourite) and Meissen and Sevres porcelain he has visited museums—"my university of crime".

His elementary school of crime was a tough reformatory school in 1927, where he was beaten, and Borealis in 1932. He

scorns the idea that locking up people with villains can reform them. "They talk about crime as journalists talk about journalism when they get together, and doctors, medicine."

He remembers the silence rule when prisoners had to put up their hands to ask permission to speak. That did not deter him either. He has been in prison on and off ever since.

He says: "I was lucky enough to meet a man from Australia who told me about 'the laid'. It was his first lesson in how to use a piece of celluloid in place of a latchkey. Others told him how to 'case' a likely target, looking for a note to the milkman, accumulating newspapers, the light that does not come on at the usual time, then looking up the telephone number in *Who's Who* and trying it to see whether there is a reply. He was told to avoid places with guard dogs."

He broke into Lord Oliver's home to steal silver, having discovered his movements by reading *The Stage* and *Variety*. Lord Harwood's home escaped because an unexpected musical soiree was being held there, and instead an invitingly open kitchen window nearby led to the theft of minks and jewelry.

Featherstone took to crime when his grandmother, a strict Baptist, found his last year in the till of her shop when he was 14. He says he later began his life's rebellion against authority after police slapped his face to get a confession, that time he had stolen a bicycle. He had stolen brought up to go to Sunday School and to trust the police.

Two freed in trial of soldiers

Rifleman Neville Edmondston, aged 20, was yesterday cleared of conspiring to kill or maim the man accused of murdering his nine-year-old cousin.

Mr. Justice Taylor at the Central Criminal Court passed a three months' sentence on the two young men for possessing firearms without lawful authority.

Sentencing him the judge said: "I take the view that in your life, you would hope and expect it will never be repeated."

The prosecution alleged that the three intended to use them to storm Harlow Magistrates' Court where Mr. Bernard Macanaspie, aged 29, was appearing accused of killing Steven Edmondston, a schoolboy from Harlow.

Rifleman Gary Rozier, aged 21, of Copenhagen Place, Christchurch, New Zealand, was also cleared of conspiring to kill or maim but received a three months' suspended sentence for possessing firearms.

Corporal Ivor Hirst, aged 25, of BIPPO, Germany, was jailed for a total of 12 months on the same charge. The judge heard he had a previous firearms conviction. Hirst was also cleared of conspiring to kill or maim.

The jury on Monday acquitted the three of conspiracy to murder.

Charges against the three of conspiring to cause grievous bodily harm were dropped.

'Romans' case called bid to get round law

By Frances Gibb

Nudity in theatre and films is commonplace nowadays and one cannot try to turn back the clock by manipulating the criminal law, Lord Hutchinson of Lullington, QC, told a magistrates' court yesterday.

Scenes of simulated sexual behaviour were seen in places throughout the world. "One may disapprove, but that is the climate of opinion in which this matter must be judged," he said.

Lord Hutchinson was speaking at the end of the committal proceedings at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court in which Mr. Michael Bogdanov, director of the National Theatre's production of *The Romans* in Britain, was committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

Mrs. Mary Whitehouse, the anti-pornography campaigner, is bringing a private prosecution under the Sexual Offences Act 1956, alleging that Mr. Bogdanov procured the commission of an act of gross indecency by two actors who simulated an act of gross indecency between a Roman soldier and a Druid. Mr. Bogdanov has pleaded not guilty.

"This is a very serious matter indeed for this young, talented director," Lord Hutchinson told Mr. Kenneth Harrison, the magistrate. "It is a dreadful thing for him to be brought to court and for it to be said he procured an act of gross indecency between two persons."

He urged that all the circumstances of the scene be looked at. "I submit that this act of attempted rape, set out in his play, was not done, and everybody agrees it was not done, with any kind of prurience or titillation."

"It was performed straightforwardly and the hand of the soldier was over his penis and the penis remained not erect throughout this half minute, and the second man was struggling and when he breaks away, it is quite clear the attempted rape has failed."

Lord Hutchinson argued that Mrs. Whitehouse's prosecution was a deliberate attempt to circumvent the law. The Sexual Offences Act was designed to deal with real sexual offences amounting to a public nuisance and it was absurd to apply it to a stage performance.

If the Act could be applied in that way, then any person involved in a play, film or

broadcast, where there is an act that could be considered grossly indecent would then be committing a criminal offence.

Not only was the Act inappropriate, it contained the anomaly that it only applied to men, and if Mr. Bogdanov had been a woman, the case could not have been brought, he said.

Mr. John Smyth, QC representing Mrs. Whitehouse, and Mr. Graham Ross-Cornes, her solicitor, both described to the court the half-minute scene in great detail which they maintained was without doubt an act of gross indecency.

It involved a scene where three Celts, naked after a swim, are disturbed by Roman soldiers. The soldiers kill two of them and assault the third, cutting his shoulder and buttock.

They then strip off their clothes. One soldier lifts the Celt's buttocks by putting his arms round his torso. A second turns "somewhat away" and makes masturbatory movements. He turns back, "anxiously holding his penis" in place. It is between the legs and makes thrusting movements.

Mr. Smyth said: "One asks the question, on the undisputed facts here, can one imagine anything more grossly indecent, subject to the fact, admittedly, that this was a play? Kissing is one thing, but when one gets down to a man's genitals, it is obvious one moves into the realm of gross indecency."

It was also irrelevant that the Attorney General had not consented to a prosecution under the Theatre Act, that was a private prosecution or what the audience reaction was.

"The question is: This is an undisputed act of homosexual rape; is it prima facie grossly indecent? What was the reaction of people who saw it thought is neither here nor there."

Mr. Smyth asked what the position would be had Sir Peter Hall commissioned a play about paedophilia, involving child actors. "Is it to be said that this sort of behaviour, that a boy of under 16 could not be prosecuted under this act?"

"What if there was a simulated act in the street, in street theatre, could it then be said that because it was simulated, this was not indecency? In our submission this would be absurd."

SCHREIBER WINS LIBEL CASE

Mr. Chaim Schreiber, head of the Schreiber furniture and Hotpoint organizations, was awarded £5,000 libel damages against Thames Television yesterday over allegations of price fixing.

A TV Eye programme had claimed that Mr. Schreiber and Hotpoint contravened the Resale Price Maintenance Act by threatening to withhold deliveries to the Comet discount chain. Comet, accused of selling at less than the manufacturers' minimum prices.

Hotpoint, joint plaintiffs, in the High Court action, were awarded £500 damages, and, with Mr. Schreiber, costs estimated at £100,000.

Mr. Schreiber told Mr. Justice Croom and a jury that he was opposed to the Act, but he had acted outside it.

After the hearing he said he was opposed to price manipulation and "loss leadership" in which, he said, British quality goods were sold at particularly low prices to tempt buyers into a shop.

"This victory is not only for me but for many of my colleagues in British industry," he said.

Richard Hartley, QC, for Thames Television, told the judge an appeal would be considered.

The Night Sky in July

By Our Astronomy Correspondent

Mercury will reach greatest elongation as a morning star on the 14th, but will be only about an hour before the Sun and is not likely to be seen.

Venus will be setting in the evening more than an hour after the Sun on the 15th, so it should be possible to find it if the sky is clear.

Mars will be rising at about 02h and will pass from Leo into Gemini during the month. It is not very bright and rather unlikely to be seen in the morning twilight, though the western horizon will be 3° south of it on the 29th and may serve as a guide.

Jupiter is now well to the west and will be setting about midnight on the 7th at 20h but will have passed it by dark.

Saturn, a companion of Jupiter this summer, will also be setting before midnight. Moon just north of it at 23h on the 7th. The two planets will be in conjunction just over a degree apart on the 30th, Jupiter overtaking Uranus and Neptune will be setting about midnight and 02h respectively.

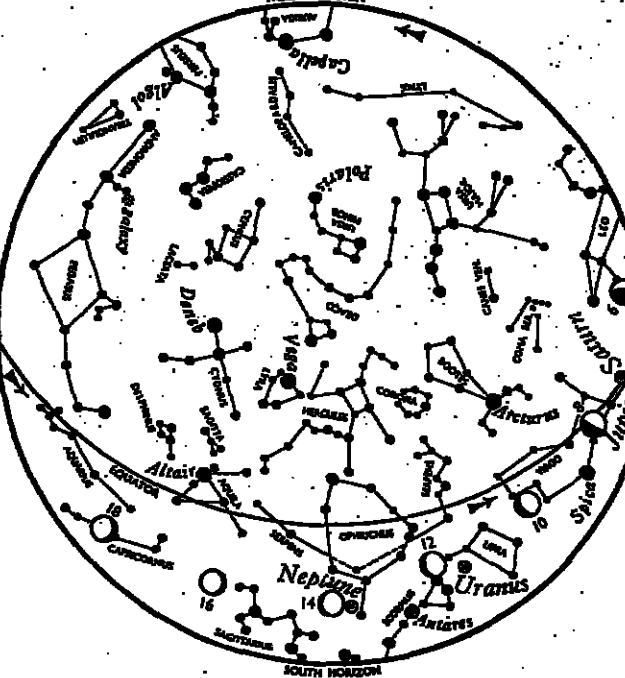
The Moon, now, 1619h, first quarter, 300h; full, 1760h (eclipse); last quarter, 3410h; new, 3160h (eclipse).

The Earth will be at aphelion, its greatest distance from the Sun, at 342h. Astronomical twilight will last all night over most of the British Isles until the end of the month.

The eclipses this month will be of little interest to most of our readers. The partial eclipse of the Moon on the 17th, the annular eclipse of it, will last from 03h30m to 05h09m but the Moon will set at about 04h. The track of the total eclipse of the Sun on the 11th lies over northern Asia and no part of the event will be visible from the United Kingdom, though a partial eclipse will be seen at sunrise from Scandinavia and eastern Europe.

The Perseid meteor shower, though really an August event, may begin any time from July 25th, but the radiant somewhat north of Perseus will be low in the north-east until well after midnight.

When facing south the Vega-Deneb-Altair triangle is unmistakable on your left, and Arcturus on



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 17h (11 pm), at 342h. Astronomical twilight will last all night over most of the British Isles until the end of the month.

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Defence computer language unreliable, professor says

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A leading computer scientist, Professor Antony Hoare, professor of computation at Oxford University, has given a warning that the highest computer language for controlling the defence and nuclear networks of the United States and Nato is unreliable.

He has pleaded for such computer programming language not to be used, where reliability is critical, for the control of cruise missiles, early warning systems, anti-ballistic missile defence systems, and nuclear power stations.

Professor Hoare says: "The next rocket to go astray because of a programming language error may not be an exploratory space vehicle on a harmless trip to Venus. It may be a nuclear warhead exploding over one of our own cities."

A computer language generating unreliable language generates, in his opinion, a far greater risk to society than unaccidental leaks at nuclear power stations.

The programming language is called Ada. It was originated by an informal team of experts called the European Long Term Procedural Language Group, and has been chosen by the United States Department of Defence for all future computer projects for the army, navy and air force.

The reliability of Ada has been a subject of controversy in academic circles, but Professor Hoare brought the argument to public notice in a recent address on receiving the A. C. M. Turing award, one of the highest prizes for technical contributions to computer science.

One of the creators of Ada who challenges the allegations about its safety is Professor Ian Pyle, chairman of the department of computer science at

York University. He is also a member of a group of academic and industrial computer experts who have formed a group called the UK Ada Consortium, to explore the language for research and teaching as well as for defence and commercial applications.

Professor Pyle told *The Times* that Ada will make it easier to detect computer faults. He said: "It was not possible to achieve the original goal of devising a simple language. But that does not mean it cannot be used to design good computer systems."

Yet it is the complexity of Ada, he has told Professor Edgar Dijkstra, of the Netherlands, one of the world's leading figures in the design and definition of programming languages, to describe it as baroque and dangerously unwieldy.

The origins of the argument lie in the attitudes to programming languages over the past 25 years in which computers have evolved. For much of that time the programming and software part of the machine system have been seen as less important than the electronic equipment.

One consequence is that more than 1,400 computer programming languages have emerged world-wide.

An audit by the American Department of Defence in 1975 showed that 10 per cent of its budget was spent on computers, and the lion's share of more than \$3,000m was on programming teams for the maintenance and modification of software.

Hence the invitation was issued by competitive tender.

The choice of Ada was developed by the European language group, with support from the European Commission, and centred on the French computer manufacturer CII-Honeywell-Bull.

Wrestler wins fight for damages

From Our Correspondent, Leeds

Masambula, the wrestler, yesterday won his court action against a firm of match promoters and a ring constructor for a back injury he received during a fight.

He was awarded £20,710 damages after his claim that a faulty ring was upheld by Mr. Justice Stirling in the High Court.

After the hearing, Masambula, whose real name is Mam Buma Jeng, said: "I have proved my point, but I am still the loser. I can never wrestle again, my love life is ruined and the wrestling world has turned its back on me."

No amount of money can compensate me for that."

Masambula, aged 37, was injured when an opponent, Judo Pete Roberts, threw him against a corner post during a match at Preston, Lancashire, in February, 1975. He now walks with a stick.

The judge ruled that the faulty back in a corner of the ring was the cause of the wrestler's injury. He said the book should have retracted on impact and acted as a shock absorber.



Masambula in his prime, wearing his leopard skin head-dress.

Masambula regarded himself more as an entertainer than a wrestler.

The judge ruled that Morrell and Berrford, Limited, of London, the promoters, and Mr. Billy Shindfield, of Alfreton, Derbyshire, the ring constructor, had failed to take reasonable steps to see that the hook would not fail. Both defendants had been negligent.

He said the match promoters were to pay one third of the damages and the ring constructor two thirds, but he granted Morrell and Berrford a stay of execution for 21 days pending consideration of an appeal.

Masambula's final fight was "arranged" by Mr. Ernest Lofthouse, the master of ceremonies, the court heard.

Masambula was due to be counted out in the fourth round.

But last night he would not elaborate about fight rigging. "If the public knew what really went on it would ruin their enjoyment of the game," he said.

Masambula, who was once the favourite wrestler of many housewives, now lives on social security at Battershaw, Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Fear keeps Londoners indoors at night

Syrians lift siege of Christian town in Lebanon

From Tewfik Mishlani, Beirut, June 30

The Syrian siege imposed for three months on the Christian town of Zahle in central Lebanon was lifted today after several hundred Lebanese regular troops, supported by 20 armoured personnel carriers and half-tracks, entered the city to take over the control of law and order.

About 70 militiamen of the Phalange party, which led the armed resistance against the Syrian forces since the beginning of April, were granted safe-conduct under an agreement mediated by the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti ambassadors to Lebanon.

Acting on behalf of a four-state Arab League committee on Lebanon, the two had extensive talks with the Lebanese and Syrian authorities as well as with the political factions involved in the Lebanese crisis.

The details of the agreement remain secret, but government sources in Beirut said that basically it provides for the deployment of between 500 and 650 Lebanese regular gendarmes in Zahle to maintain law and order, the evacuation of Phalange militiamen, the collection of weapons and the closure of all Phalange offices and training centers. The party's main regional office will be allowed to function, however.

The Christian militiamen left Zahle in five army buses and two lorries escorted by Mr Elias Hrawi, the Minister of Public Works and Major-General Subhi al-Hakim, the military intelligence chief of the all-Syrian Arab Deterrent Force.

They were driven to east Beirut, which is controlled by Christians, and were welcomed and praised for their courage by Mr Bachir Gemayel, their leader.

Civilians in the embattled town of Zahle went out to greet

More Civil Guards to face trial in Spain

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, June 30

Señor Alberto Oliart, Spain's defence minister, today ordered the military prosecutor to change all civil guards below the rank of officer against whom "reasonable evidence" exists of direct involvement in February's abortive coup.

The move is likely to delay still further the date of the public trial which, even before today's development, was not expected to open before late autumn at the earliest. Thirty officers, including three Army generals and 17 civil guards, have already been charged with military rebellion.

Señor Oliart's action represents the Government's response to increasing public criticism that it has been dragging its feet in bringing to account those who took part in the events of February 23, when more than 200 civil guards and their officers, led by Colonel Antonio Tejero, stormed Parliament and intimidated MPs.

Earlier reports that only 11 civil guards who fired their guns inside Parliament would be charged were badly received by the Spanish press.

The minister has also ordered the prosecutor to examine the cases of the military policemen from the Brunete armoured division, who arrived later to help in the coup. Among these officers already charged is Major Ricardo Pardo Zancada, who was in charge of the elite division's military police.

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, has said he would not be bound by an agreement allegedly negotiated by Colonel Tejero before MPs were freed. It allowed his civil guards on the grounds they were only obeying their officers' orders.

The Government's basic problem remains bringing extreme right-wing officers to account within their own legal system. The armed forces as a state within a state, dating from Franco's time, still flourishes.

Lawyers for Major Ricardo Saenz de Ynestraza, whom the Interior Minister ordered to be detained under the emergency law for alleged plotting against the Government, are now disputing a civilian court's right to indict an army officer.

Post-Franco reforms of the Army's criminal code permit this in the case of common crimes.

The army authorities have ruled that the civil guard colonel, awaiting trial on charges of homicide after the death of three young men in Andalusia last month, can remain in a civil barracks, where his home is also situated.



As China tires of the Mao cult, Hu Yaobang has been chosen to replace Hua Guofeng as Communist Party Chairman.



Turkey sets rules on Constituent Assembly

From Simon Fisk, Ankara, June 30

The ruling National Security Council today promulgated a new law on the Constituent Assembly meant as a step in the eventual return to democracy in Turkey.

The Assembly will be made up of the five members of the National Security Council and 120 members of a consultative assembly.

Former members of Parliament, as well as people who were members of political parties until September 11, the day when the military takeover, will be banned.

Forty members will be named directly by the Security Council and 120 will be chosen by the council from among candidates submitted by the governors of the 67 provinces.

All Turkish citizens aged over 30, with a university education who have completed their military service, will be eligible, provided they have not been sentenced for criminal offences, or jailed for more than a year.

The assembly will prepare a new constitution, an electoral law, and a law on political parties.

The constitution will be drawn up by a constitutional committee to be approved by the plenary session of the Constituent Assembly as well as by the National Security Council before being submitted to a referendum.

Members will "speak in the name of the Turkish nation", and will enjoy parliamentary immunity, unless deprived of it by an absolute majority of the House.

They will be allowed to pursue their own professions, on condition that they do not hold civil service posts, and their activities do not hamper their work at the Consultative Assembly.

Absenteeism will not be allowed. "Members who fail to appear at plenary sessions or committee meetings for five days in a month without a proper excuse" will lose their membership. Vacant seats will be filled by nomination of the National Security Council.

Admiral Isik Birin, the co-ordinator of the council, said today that the Constituent Assembly would be like a "task force... with no political essence... a kind of advisory body".

The announcement today did not set a date for the creation of the Assembly, but General Kaman Erren, the head of state, had already promised that it would be functioning "some time between the Victory holiday and Independence Day", that is, between August 30 and October 29.

Hassan's dilemma in aftermath of riots

From Roland Delcours, Rabat, June 30

With about 500 people facing a variety of criminal charges in Morocco over the recent rioting in Casablanca, King Hassan and his ministers are facing difficult decisions that could affect the liberalization attempted since 1977.

The country is still in a state of shock over the violence, which happened on the eve of last week's 10th anniversary of African Unity meeting which King Hassan was about to attend in Nairobi.

The question of who was responsible for what is now called the "events of Casablanca" has become the main preoccupation for Moroccan leaders. It has even overshadowed King Hassan's acceptance at the OAU meeting of a "process of controlled referendum" over the fate of the Western Sahara where Morocco has been fighting guerrillas of the Polisario Front.

At first, the Government took a cautious line over who caused the disturbances on June 20, when an unknown number of people suffered injuries in poor areas of Casablanca during a strike against increases in food prices.

King Hassan and Mr Maati Bouabid, the Prime Minister, initially confined themselves to condemning the riots, referring

SENATOR WILL STAND AGAIN

From Our Correspondent, Los Angeles, June 30

California's Republican senator Mr Samuel Haysakawa, a former professor of English who will be 75 in July, announced yesterday that he will run for election for a second term, inspired by the victory of President Reagan.

Some leading Republicans had asked him to step down in favour of a younger man, such as conservative Representative Henry Colson, Jr, son of the senator, but Mr Haysakawa declined. Other contenders could include liberal Republican Representative Peter McCloskey and President Reagan's oldest daughter Maureen.

S African student leader freed and banned

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, June 30

After being held under security laws for a month without being charged, Mr Andrew Boraine, the 22-year-old president of the National Union of South African Students, the white English-speaking student union, has been freed but immediately served with a five-year banning order which will effectively silence him.

There is neither a provision in South African law for an appeal against a banning order nor any requirement on the Minister of Justice to explain why it was imposed.

All that Mr Boraine will be allowed to do will be to continue his studies at the University of Cape Town.

The banning order under the Internal Security Act forbids him from being in the company of more than one person at a time or to attend any social or political gatherings. He is barred from entering any factory, black area or attending any gathering of pupils or students in order to instruct, train or address them.

Mr Boraine is the son of Dr Alex Boraine, a leading member of Parliament for the Progressive Federal Party and a Methodist minister.

The banning order was served on him last night after he had been released from Pretoria central prison and flown 1,000 miles home to Cape Town on board a military aircraft. There has been no official explanation why he travelled on board a military aircraft instead of a regular domestic flight.

Dr Boraine said today that his joy over his son's release was "tempered by the severity of the banning order".

His son has been one of the most effective leaders of the students' union since the mid-1970s when a series of Government pressure and the banning and voluntary exile of its leaders, the union adopted a passive role.

Under his leadership the union has begun to form links with the Black Students' Society, an emergent organization. It is clear that the authorities fear the growing unity between radical white student groups and blacks.

The authorities have also turned their attention to the growing influence of emergent black trade unions. Black trade unionists claim that detentions and banning orders are the most widespread since 1976 when the Government banned about 30 people connected with the black trade union movement.

Labour truce ending in France

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, June 30

There have been clear indications in the past couple of days that the honeymoon enjoyed by the new Socialist Government since it took office 40 days ago, no longer extends to the labour front.

Organized labour had been remarkably supine until this week, the unions, including the militant, Communist-dominated CGT which makes a point of always being in the van of labour demands, showing an almost angelic moderation; and the employers, ducking their heads and refraining for the time being from challenging the Government's social and economic plans head on, whatever their misgivings, and opposition to them in private, and waiting for them to be propounded in more detail.

But this fragile peace has been broken—and the breach has occurred over the sensitive issue of the 35-hour week. The opening shot was fired by M Edmond Maire, the rather maverick secretary general of the leftist CFDT labour organization. While M Jacques Delors, the Minister for Economics, holds out a carrot to the employers, and appeals to their civic spirit and wisdom, M Maire wields the big stick, and threatens labour unrest immediately after the summer holiday hiatus (which is sacred in this country).

M Maire accused the employers of gambling on catastrophe. They wanted an "economic third round" of the elections, he claimed. Their hostility to the reduction in the working week was political.

The CNPF (the French CBI) is trying to compel the Government to legislate on the matter straight away in order to be able to scream afterwards against its authoritarianism, and to switch over to passive resistance, with the aim of wrecking government policy.

This broadside drew an immediate response yesterday from M Yvon Chotard, the vice-president of the CNPF for social affairs, who is one of the more progressively minded members of the organization.

"To want to impose a rhythm of social progress to an economy in a state of crisis is to run headlong into catastrophe," he said. The freedom of manoeuvre of employers since the second oil shock had been reduced by the 8 per cent slump in industrial production.

Hopes fade for rights amendment

From Nicholas Hurst, Washington, June 30

Alan Alda, the star of the television series *Mash*, has lent his support to the fight here for a constitutional amendment enshrining equal rights for women.

Alda today appeared at a Washington rally for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), one of 170 rallies taking place around the country.

I do not endorse the Equal Rights Amendment as celebrities endorse a bar of soap, I don't want people to support the ERA because I am cute," Alda said. The press and television have taken him up as the latest example of the thinking star with a social conscience.

His support is undoubtedly useful. But the Equal Rights Amendment campaign, led by the National Organization for Women Now, realize that their chances of gaining ratification of the further three states they need to bring the amendment into the constitution are slim.

Mr Eleanor Smeal, sides of NOW, said "It is an uphill struggle. The odds of success are against us."

The Equal Rights Amendment to the United States constitution has three short sections. The principle is given in the first: "Equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

According to a recent opinion poll, it is supported by 61 per cent of Americans. It was first passed by Congress in March, 1972. To become law it must be ratified by 38 states. Thirty-five have done so, although a few have since tried to rescind their decision.

In the political world, it has been swept aside by the move to the right which brought President Reagan and the Republican Party in the Senate into power. Mr Reagan is in favour of piecemeal legislation to improve women's equality. A constitutional amendment, he believes is not the right way.

California refuses bail to alleged Polish spy

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, June 30

Further details in the bizarre story involving a 29-year-old Polish businessman believed to be an intelligence officer, and a Hughes Aircraft Company radar engineer with top secret clearance, who is accused of selling secrets to the Polish Government, emerged in a Los Angeles court today. Bail was refused to Marian Zacharski, who for the past five years has been the head of the Polish American Machinery Company, a firm wholly owned by the Polish Government, which has annual sales in the United States of \$30m (about £15m).

However, bail was set at \$50,000 for Mr William Bell, aged 61, an FBI agent who said that the radar engineer had admitted taking pictures of secret radar documents and personally delivering them to

THE POPE IS RECOVERING

From Our Own Correspondent, Rome, June 30

The Pope is recovering from the virus infection which brought about his return to hospital but still has a slight temperature.

His doctors gave no indication as to how long he will have to stay in hospital or of when a second operation, when more normal use of the intestines will be performed.

SECURITY TALKS

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid, June 30

The 35 countries attending the European Security Review Conference today agreed unanimously to try to wind up their labours by mid-July.

But many Western delegates doubted whether this was more than a pious wish in view of the prevailing East-West tensions.

29 PEOPLE IN BRITAIN HAVE THE POWER TO TRANSMIT COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH...IN 7 MINUTES FLAT.

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From British TELECOM International

Europe proposes two-stage talks on Afghanistan

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, June 30

The EEC proposal for an international conference on Afghanistan, which was formally announced today by the heads of member states at the end of their summit meeting here, is to be the main focus of European diplomatic activity over the coming months.

Mrs Thatcher confirmed that Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, would fly to Moscow on Monday to discuss the conference plan.

Lord Carrington, who takes over the chair of the Council of Ministers for six months from tomorrow, said he believed there was a real chance that the Russians might be persuaded to take part.

There were two main reasons for hope: first the Soviet Union was "in some difficulty militarily and in other ways" in Afghanistan; second, the Soviet occupation and greatly damaged Russian relations with the Third World.

In their joint statement on Afghanistan, the EEC leaders said the time had come "for a fresh attempt to open the way to a political solution. They believed that the Russians might be persuaded to take part in a constructive way forward."

The EEC leaders propose that the conference should be convened in October or November of this year. No venue was specified, but there was talk of New York or Geneva. The conference should consist of two

Mitterrand steals the show at summit

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg, June 30

President Mitterrand was, with Signor Giovanni Spadolini of Italy, one of the two "new boys" at the European summit and, by common consent, he stole the show.

From the moment he arrived at the 22-storey tower block of Luxembourg's European Centre, the one question everyone there was asking was how France's new President would be received by the other members of this select club of European leaders.

As time went on it became increasingly clear that he had been received very well. The West Germans were particularly impressed by how well he had studied his files. The Dutch noted how he had spent a half an hour of his whole range of subjects without notes.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher took a protracted breakfast with him this morning, extending it by an extra half hour, and came away, she said, having thoroughly enjoyed it.

What surprised his European partners was the range of subjects he dealt with and the way he managed on his own to alter preconceptions and widen the European viewpoint.

It had been thought possible that the European Commission's proposals for a new mandate could dominate discussions at the summit but President Mitterrand argued that France needed more time to study them and he was given it.

Instead, economic and social affairs dominated the debate. Mitterrand's contribution sounded like an extension of his own election campaign on this subject.

He emphasized the impossibility of tackling inflation and unemployment in isolation from each other and argued the need for a 35-hour week. Unpopular though such ideas were with Britain, West Germany and Italy, the points registered and would be studied.

He rocked the becalmed European boat over the Middle East, daring to suggest that the global approach for a settlement agreed at the EEC's Venice summit a year ago might not be the best or only solution to the problem.

He lectured on the need for Europe to regard the North-South problems with as much urgency as East-West ones. He surprised his colleagues, especially the British, by his suggestion that there was a "rampant neutrality" in the way the West was facing up to the Polish crisis.

Luxembourg went out of its way to make the new boy feel at home. One supporter gave a solo recitation of the *Internationale* when he arrived. The 2,000 or so European trade unionists, protesting about unemployment, marched up with their red-and-green flags shining wet and streaming out in the wind. They chanted the mention of his name but boomed President Reagan's.

At the residence of the French ambassador even the garden seemed to be ready for the Socialist President. The red roses, which are the party's symbol, were in flower all the way along the path from the front door. A small crowd gathered there this morning to watch him escort Mrs Thatcher to her car and then to give him a special cheer before he climbed into his own.

Overall, the new boy was not disappointed. As each of the first couple of days of his term in office, talking about Europe, he said, he had known before he came that a great leap forward in the Community could not occur overnight.

Haig welcomes diplomatic initiative by EEC

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, June 30

The United States today strongly welcomed the European initiative to convene a summit about the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

In a prepared statement, Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, also welcomed the United Nations conference, which will try to resolve the Cambodian crisis.

The statement said: "I wish to underline the profound importance and promise of two new diplomatic initiatives. Today the European Community launched a fresh effort to open the way to a solution to the problem of Afghanistan by proposing a major constitutional conference for this autumn. On July 13 a United Nations conference in New York is to try to resolve the problem of Kampuchea (Cambodia)."

"These two issues are at the very heart of the increase in international tension in recent years. The combination of Vietnam's invasion of Kampuchea in 1978 and the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 reflected a strong reaction on the part of the vast majority of members of the United Nations.

"The continuing occupation and conflict in these countries represents a threat to security in key regions. The number of refugees reflects the terrible human cost and both conflicts are a major barrier to the development of a more constructive East-West relationship.

"Let there be no doubt about where we stand. The American people must control their own destiny. The purpose of the negotiations is not to impose a solution from outside as the Vietnam and Soviet Union have attempted to do by force of arms."

Palme says Iran may affect world peace

Stockholm, June 30

Deterioration of the situation in Iran could lead to meddling by the superpowers and thus endanger world peace, Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, said today.

Mr Palme, a former Swedish prime minister, had just completed his fourth mission to Iran in attempting to settle the war between Iran and Iraq.

He refused to gauge the chances of an outbreak of civil war after the explosion that killed Ayatollah Muhammad Beheshti and other ministers on Sunday. He had had no contact with Iranian leaders after the blast.

Meanwhile, in The Hague, the Tehran bombing seemed likely to stop the opening of a special arbitration court to settle the financial matters between the United States and Iran arising from the holding of the American hostages.

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Britain and France fail to resolve lamb dispute

From Michael Hornsby, Luxembourg, June 30

EEC agriculture ministers failed tonight to resolve the dispute that threatens a renewal of last year's "lamb war" between Britain and France.

Mr Peter Walker, the British minister, rejected various compromise proposals on the grounds that they would have meant a loss of income for British sheep farmers. The dispute will now drag on into Britain's EEC presidency, which begins tomorrow.

As a gesture of good will, Mr Walker did lift the veto Britain had earlier put on the implementation of price-fixing decisions taken last April concerning sugar and oilseeds. But he will continue to block price rises for wine and cereals, due to come into effect on August 1, until the lamb issue is resolved.

The main problem is the level of levies on exports of British lamb to the Continent which are imposed under the new sheepmeat regime introduced last October.

Under this scheme, devised in part to enable the French to lift their ban on the import of British lamb, sheep farmers in Britain are paid a premium to raise their low market prices up to the higher Continental level.

If British lamb is not sold at home but exported to other EEC member states this premium has to be paid back in the form of a levy. British exporters complain that the levy is too high and does not take account of the higher cost of the type of lamb required for the export trade.

As a result, exporting lamb has become unprofitable, the British complain. It is in fact true that exports to the Continent are now at a lower level than they were before the French ban was lifted.

Transmitter will boost resistance

Paris, June 30

The Afghan resistance will have access to its first radio transmitter within the next few weeks, a Paris-based support committee for the resistance movement in Soviet-occupied Afghanistan said here today.

The radio will be the first link in a network of radio transmitters broadcast under the code-name "Radio Free Afghanistan".

"Dear sisters, dear brothers, peoples of Afghanistan, this is the voice of free Afghanistan, the voice of free Afghanistan within one month, this slogan will reach over the territory," said Mr Marek Halter, a human rights committee leader.

Addressing a press conference with the co-leader Mr Bernard-Henri Levy, Mr Halter said that the broadcasts would be made in the two native Afghan languages of Pashto and Farsi, as well as in Russian.

He said the first transmitter was already on its way to Afghanistan.

Mr Levy said that the total cost of the project was estimated at \$100,000. Afghanistan would initially be divided into 12 broadcasting zones, with an additional two or three added later on.

The committee said it would be responsible for financing the project, but that the Afghan resistance to the Soviet occupation would have total autonomy in planning and preparing the radio programmes.

Acknowledging that sending the radio equipment could be construed as interference in internal Afghan affairs, Mr Levy said: "In certain situations, notably when there is a risk of the liquidation of a population, there is a right, a duty, to interfere which is among the tasks of an intellectual."

Carrington coup gives him a flying start

By David Spanier, Diplomatic Correspondent

Lord Carrington opens his six months term as President of the European Community today with one remarkable coup already out of the bag—the announcement yesterday of his working visit to Moscow to discuss a settlement in Afghanistan. What he is aiming for, it seems, is to repeat the negotiating device of the Rhodesia conference.

Although the Foreign Secretary is granting the new EEC initiative for a two-stage conference on Afghanistan, he is acting as the Community's spokesman, it is in origin a British idea, with a Community stamp of approval.

The idea first surfaced a week ago when Sir Curtis Keble, the British ambassador in Moscow, explained at a meeting with Mr Kornienko, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, what the British proposal was. The fact that an invitation has come back to Lord Carrington to meet Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, so quickly is seen in London as an encouraging sign.

Carrington has been reviewing possible ways of breaking the impasse on achieving a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan for months past. It is difficult to say what has changed to enable Britain to take a lead now. Various Soviet statements have hinted at a willingness to consider a negotiated settlement, notably President Brezhnev's speech in Vilnius on May 22 when he referred, perhaps significantly, to the "Afghan side" rather than the Afghan Government being party to a settlement.

Up to now the main stumbling block in arranging talks has been Soviet insistence that the Karmal regime was the rightful government of Afghanistan. The West has maintained that the regime was maintained in power only by the presence of Soviet troops, and consequently could not be accepted as legitimate.

Lord Carrington's new idea—which he would seem to be adapting from his approach to the problem of Zimbabwe—is to hold a first stage conference without the Afghans, at which international arrangements would be worked out to end external intervention in Afghanistan.

Million-dollar television chief loses his job

From Michael Leppman, New York, June 30

The perils of being a highly paid, highly visible executive, especially in the entertainment industry, have been underlined here again today with the resignation of Mr Fred Silverman, president of the National Broadcasting Company (NBC).

Three years ago Mr Silverman was hired at a reported million dollars (\$500,000) a year to try to improve the standing of the television network, which was consistently scoring lower points in the ratings than its two national rivals.

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Washington accuses OAU

Washington, June 30

The United States today accused the Organisation of African Unity of "distorting" American views on South Africa and denounced it for not condemning Libya's intervention in Chad.

"We found the OAU resolutions on both South Africa and Namibia (South-West Africa) contained serious distortions of the facts and were actually putting in those areas," a State Department spokesman said.

The OAU resolutions were "unhelpful contributions to our common efforts," he added. "It should be absolutely clear from our actions that the United States is firmly committed to pursuing an internationally recognized independent status for Namibia. Such a settlement can be reached only through negotiations with all the involved parties, including South Africa."

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Wide dissent remains in Bolivia

From A Special Correspondent

In a nation best known for its frequent coups and brevity of governments, President Luis Garcia Meza of Bolivia may be setting a record this year. After nearly a year in power, the 52-year-old general has since May 2-faced—and survived—a rightist rebellion and three military insurrections.

Since seizing power from Señora Lidia Gueiler, the civilian President on July 17, 1980, he has shown remarkable staying power.

Last Saturday's non-violent rebellion, led by General Humberto Cárdenas, the Bolivian Army Commander and General Lucio Anzures, the Chief of Staff, has despite its near success—apparently reinforced the President's wobbly hold on the reins of government.

However, in this largely Indian nation of 5.5 million people, appearances are often misleading, and serious questions remain concerning the military dictator's ability to hold power much longer.

Shunned by the West for alleged human rights abuses, government corruption and official complicity in drug trafficking, General Garcia Meza was fully aware of the American support for the two generals who led the coup last weekend and their hopes for a more liberal regime.

Despite the coup failure, there is still widespread dissent within the country's intensely politicized armed forces to the Garcia Meza regime.

General Cárdenas had become in recent weeks the clearest threat to the Garcia Meza regime. In a meeting with foreign reporters on June 19, he was the first senior official of the regime to confirm the "boom" that had taken place in Bolivia's multi-million pound cocaine export trade since General Garcia Meza seized power.

While swearing in General Cárdenas and General Anzures to their posts last May, President Garcia Meza announced he

Brezhnev blames US for arms talks delay

From Michael Bunyon, Moscow, June 30

President Brezhnev today blamed the United States for the delay in starting talks on the limitation of nuclear arms in Europe, and said the Russians were ready to sit down at the negotiating table tomorrow.

At a dinner in honour of Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, the Soviet leader expressed anger and disappointment that his proposal for a moratorium on the deployment of new medium-range missiles by both Nato and the Soviet Union had not been taken up in the West.

He said that if talks on this were to start, they would now do so while both sides were continuing to implement their programmes, and this was not the best way to proceed.

Mr Brezhnev was speaking after a round of talks with Herr Brandt whose visit here is regarded as an important attempt to cut through East-West suspicions and get talks going between Moscow and Washington.

Herr Brandt is the architect of West Germany's drive for détente with Eastern Europe, and is a respected figure in Moscow. He has been received with honours usually accorded only to heads of government.

Mr Brezhnev said his country expected "real weighty results" from arms talks. But he suggested that the Americans were not serious in the offer to negotiate. He insisted they were being instead for military superiority over the Russians.

Herr Brandt emphasized that this was not so.

In his talks with the Soviet leaders, who included Mr Boris Ponomarev, an influential Politburo candidate member, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, Herr Brandt also discussed the Salt-2 Treaty, the worsening international situation, Poland, Afghanistan and the North-South Dialogue in which he plays a key role.

Mr Brezhnev, in his speech, indicated personal warmth for the former Chancellor, describing their discussions as "fair, candid and business-like." He recalled that 10 years ago the two men negotiated agreements that were still functioning in today's aggravated international situation. But he added: "Let us face up to the truth. Today there is a threat of a different kind of a different kind from détente to a new edition of the cold war."

Mr Brezhnev blamed Nato for this, and by implication, West Germany also, but insisted that good relations with the Federal Republic was a permanent feature of Soviet strategic policy.

Herr Brandt was accompanied by Herr Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, the deputy chairman of the Social Democratic party of which the former Chancellor is now chairman.

Herr Brandt reminded his hosts of the serious consequences for détente and Soviet-West German relations of any Soviet intervention in Poland.

Tass said today that the talks were held in a "friendly and constructive atmosphere."

Britain and France fail to resolve lamb dispute

From Michael Hornsby, Luxembourg, June 30

EEC agriculture ministers failed tonight to resolve the dispute that threatens a renewal of last year's "lamb war" between Britain and France.

Mr Peter Walker, the British minister, rejected various compromise proposals on the grounds that they would have meant a loss of income for British sheep farmers. The dispute will now drag on into Britain's EEC presidency, which begins tomorrow.

As a gesture of good will, Mr Walker did lift the veto Britain had earlier put on the implementation of price-fixing decisions taken last April concerning sugar and oilseeds. But he will continue to block price rises for wine and cereals, due to come into effect on August 1, until the lamb issue is resolved.

The main problem is the level of levies on exports of British lamb to the Continent which are imposed under the new sheepmeat regime introduced last October.

Under this scheme, devised in part to enable the French to lift their ban on the import of British lamb, sheep farmers in Britain are paid a premium to raise their low market prices up to the higher Continental level.

If British lamb is not sold at home but exported to other EEC member states this premium has to be paid back in the form of a levy. British exporters complain that the levy is too high and does not take account of the higher cost of the type of lamb required for the export trade.

As a result, exporting lamb has become unprofitable, the British complain. It is in fact true that exports to the Continent are now at a lower level than they were before the French ban was lifted.

UN war on the worm

By Tony Samstag

The United Nations Development Programme has declared war on the Guinea worm, a disagreeable parasite afflicting scores of millions of people in the Third World.

The infection comes from dirty water contaminated with the worm's larvae, so the effort to eradicate it has been brought under the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, launched by a number of United Nations agencies earlier this year.

The mature Guinea worm, which can be four feet long, breaks through the skin, usually in the victim's lower leg or foot, about a year after the larvae were ingested. Infection, while it lasts, can be incapacitating; many people are re-infected almost continually throughout their lives, and one victim in 20 is permanently disabled. In one village in the Ivory Coast, 317 of the 681 inhabitants were infected in 1960.

The larvae are released when an ulcer or abscess comes in contact with water, so prevention is simple: the use of piped water systems, closed wells and filtered drinking water.

Rescue attempt

Capriana, Italy

Two French police officers rescued three Italian captives from a ransom in a limestone cave since Sunday and one of the Italians wriggled to safety a few hours later. Signor Massimo de Paoli, aged 20, a student, managed to squeeze through the narrow rocky passage which the Frenchmen had used, but the other two Italians were too large to get through.

Berlin bees

Berlin

The site of Adolf Hitler's bunker, long a desolate wasteland on the East-West Berlin border, was put to use again today — by beekeepers. The area provides a home for wooden hives whose bees well places to gather pollen from wild flowers growing in the no man's land close to the Berlin wall.

Zaire threat

Kinshasa

President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire threatened to break off diplomatic relations with Brussels unless the Belgian Government stopped the subversive activities of members of the Zaire opposition in exile in Belgium.

Nuclear test

Uppsala, Sweden

The Soviet Union denounced its first underground nuclear test this year, the Swedish Seismological Institute announced here.

Food warning

Dar es Salaam

Mr Joseph Munga, the Agriculture Minister, said that Tanzania will have to import thousands of tonnes of grain next year to make up a shortfall in domestic production.

Peak fitness

Geneva

The number of Polish refugees seeking temporary asylum in Austria has doubled during the past week to about 200 a day.



'One of them MUST work'

Palme says Iran may affect world peace

Stockholm, June 30

Deterioration of the situation in Iran could lead to meddling by the superpowers and thus endanger world peace, Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, said today.

Mr Palme, a former Swedish prime minister, had just completed his fourth mission to Iran in attempting to settle the war between Iran and Iraq.

He refused to gauge the chances of an outbreak of civil war after the explosion that killed Ayatollah Muhammad Beheshti and other ministers on Sunday. He had had no contact with Iranian leaders after the blast.

Meanwhile, in The Hague, the Tehran bombing seemed likely to stop the opening of a special arbitration court to settle the financial matters between the United States and Iran arising from the holding of the American hostages.



Sayyed Hussein Mousavi, Iran's new Foreign Minister.

The panel has nine members: three Americans, three Iranians, two Swedes and one Frenchman. It is to organize and set its ground rules in a four-day session beginning tomorrow.

Beginning tomorrow, the court will review financial claims between individuals or companies not yet settled by the arbitration procedure. This procedure is to be carried out at Vienna, with the American Government defending private claims of less than \$250m (\$125m), and companies with larger claims defending their own cases.

Before dealing with any unsettled claims, it is possible the court will be asked to take on claims by either or both governments, informed sources said.

Americans have submitted more than 2,000 lawsuits to the arbitration procedure. Most of these involve breach of contract, unpaid debts and expropriated or abandoned property in Iran.

A \$1,000m insurance fund, created out of half the Iranian assets frozen by former President Carter is available to cover damages sought by the different parties.

The other half of the money is to be returned to Iran, on July 19. Iran has undertaken to make good the difference if American claims of more than \$1,000m are recognized.

Agence France-Press.

□ Moscow: President Brezhnev sent a message of condolence to Ayatollah Khomeini on the death of dozens of Iranian political figures in the Tehran bombing.

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Church team criticizes Aborigines' plight

From Douglas Aiken
Melbourne, June 30

Allegations of discrimination against Aborigines in remote parts of Australia have been made during a visit by a team from the World Council of Churches.

The team of 11 began its tour of inland Australia on June 16 and expects to complete it by July 2. Its brief is to investigate any aspect of racism in Australia. Professor Arthur Barker, of Pakistan, is the head of the team which includes Miss Pauline Webb, from Britain; Frau Elizabeth Adler, from East Berlin; Miss Bana Silim, from Zaire; and representatives of the council from Costa Rica, the United States, South Korea and Australia.

The team has met criticism in conservative areas. Mr Johannes Eitelke, Premier of Queensland, and Sir Charles Court, the Premier of Western Australia, have been among those to condemn them.

Sir Charles said: "They are here for propaganda purposes and not to get a balanced picture of all the good things that have been and are being done to cope with a very complex situation."

This week, Professor Barker responded to the criticism. Standing amid the ugliness and poverty of an Aboriginal camp in the Kimberleys region of Western Australia, he said this was a classic example of racism and exploitation of Aborigines.

During their tour, several other cases have emerged. Australia's only Aboriginal Roman Catholic priest, Father Pat Dodson, aged 33, now in Alice Springs, has been removed from the directorship of Waderr, a Roman Catholic mission, 180 miles south-west of Darwin in the Northern Territory.

During the two years he administered Waderr, he attempted to revive Aboriginal folklore and blend it with the teachings of the Church. Last week, Alice Springs, he said that Aboriginal ceremonial life had been suppressed on Waderr since 1935 until his own arrival.

Father Dodson added that the way the white society treated the Aborigines was "just as appalling as allowing a multinational to erect an oil derrick on the dome of St Peter's or on Westminster Abbey."

In reply, the Bishop of Darwin, Mgr John O'Loughlin, said that Father Dodson had not paid too much attention to politics at the expense of the Aborigines' spiritual welfare and had gone through a period of uncertainty and confusion.

"People used to talk about mission work in terms of phases of protection, assimilation, integration," the Bishop went on. "Now the magic word is self-determination." He had tolerated but not approved of "the resurrection of pagan ways."

Father Seraphim Sanz, of Kalumburu mission in north-western Australia, who is 72, refused to allow the World Council team's aircraft to land at the mission. The Bishop of Broome, Mgr John Jobst, supported him.

Later, former resident, Mr Clement Maralady, who is 26, told the team and the press that the mission was Benedictine and that Father Sanz had been in charge of it for more than 40 years. Mr Maralady said that he and his wife and daughter had been evicted.

"The Aborigines are refused any right to take part in the administration and anyone complaining is fined one month's social security payments and allowed no petrol."

Professor Fred Hollows, the director of the National Trachoma and Eye Health Programme, yesterday called for the resignation of Senator Peter Baume, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. He accused Senator Baume of being insensitive to the needs of Aborigines.

Cries of protest at sentences on Nazi camp guards

From Patricia Clough, Dusseldorf, June 30

Cries of "scandal" and "it is an insult to the victims" rose from the public benches as sentences were passed here today in the last big Nazi extermination camp trial. One former guard, Frau Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan, was sentenced to life imprisonment and seven others were given jail terms ranging from 12 years to three-and-a-half years for murder in Majdanek extermination and labour camp.

At least 200,000—possibly one million—Jews and others were gassed, shot, tortured and starved to death at the camp near Lublin in Poland.

A ninth defendant was acquitted at the trial, the longest and costliest in West German history.

The sentences were markedly lower than the five to 10 years demanded by the public prosecutor, who is expected to apply for a review. They brought protests from the West German Jewish community.

The heaviest sentences were passed on the two main defendants. Frau Ryan, aged 61, was sentenced to life on two counts of joint murder and Frau Hildegard Luchert, aged 60, was given 12 years for complicity in two joint murders.

Frau Ryan, the daughter of a Vienna brewery worker, was nicknamed "the Mare" by captives because she kicked and trampled on them with her steel studded boots. Witnesses recounted how she had whipped and beaten inmates to push her through the gas chambers and how she drowned two Greek girls in excrement.

Witnesses testified that she was behind the November 3, 1943, massacre in which 17,000 inmates were shot at open graves. She had been sentenced in Austria to three years' penal servitude, of which she served only five months.

Frau Ryan married a Canadian construction worker in the late 1950s and emigrated to

the United States where she was tracked down by Mr Simon Wiesenthal, the Jewish Nazi hunter, and brought back for trial. She was stripped of her American citizenship.

Frau Luchert, known as "Bloody Brigitte" was given 12 years for complicity in two joint murders.

For many months she had listened calmly as witnesses told how she set her ailing dog to tear a pregnant woman to pieces, how she tore young children from their mothers and threw them into lorries to be driven to the gas chambers and smashing the heads of many in the process.

Former SS captain Hermann Hackmann, aged 67, the deputy commander of the camp, and later a furniture salesman, was sentenced to 10 years.

Emil Josef Laurich, aged 60, an SS corporal known as "the Angel of Death" who specialised in blinding prisoners with his whip, was given eight years.

Helm Villain, 66, Fritz Heinrich Patrick, 68, and Arnold Georg Strippel, 70, all former NCOs in the SS, were given six, four and three-and-a-half years respectively for complicity in joint murder.

About 150 young people with flaming torches and banners demanded heavy sentences in a demonstration outside the court as it assembled this morning. Otherwise, the five-and-a-half year trial has attracted little attention from the West German public.

The defendants, several of whom covered their faces before the daunting barrage of television and press cameras before the start of proceedings, showed little emotion as the sentences were read.

Dr Günter Bogen, the presiding judge, who has suffered several collapses and aged prematurely under the strain of his task, read the sentences out in a firm voice but with his hands shaking violently.

Tanzanian troops depart from Uganda

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, June 30

The last members of the Tanzanian military force which entered Uganda in 1978 to oust President Idi Amin are due to leave for home this week, completing a unique African operation.

Paying tribute to the departing Tanzanians at a reception at State House, Entebbe, at the weekend, Mr Paulo Mwangi, the Ugandan Vice-President, said the Tanzanians had freed the people of Uganda.

Up to 40,000 Tanzanians are thought to have been involved in the Ugandan operation at its peak.

Most of the original Tanzanian army returned home long ago, but about 10,000 remained at the request of the Ugandan Government to help train a new Ugandan army and to provide support for the new and untested Ugandan units.

They were called on several times to deal with new security threats, and were used to operate roadblocks and to guard key buildings in Kampala and other centres when crises arose. But they do not appear to have been used to counter the recent operations by guerrilla groups opposing President Milton Obote.

They were frequently criticised with opponents of the Government even calling them an army of occupation; but many Ugandans concede that their discipline was generally good, and that they have provided an example for the new Ugandan army to follow.

The Ugandan army has been accused of committing far more excesses than the Tanzanians, and there is much apprehension in Uganda about the future now there is no Tanzanian military presence to restrain some of the ill-disciplined Ugandan troops.

Up to 1,000 Tanzanian police are still serving in Uganda, and they are not being withdrawn, a sign of Washington's approval for the Marcos regime.

The Philippine opposition, which boycotted the June 16 elections—that swept Marcos back into power with 88 per



All that jazz: Lionel Hampton performs with his orchestra in a tribute to the late singer Dinah Washington during the New York-Kool Jazz Festival.

Marcos opponents angry over Bush

Manila, June 30.—President Marcos of the Philippines was sworn into office today before more than 1.5 million people and foreign dignitaries, who included Mr George Bush, the American Vice-President.

The Chief of the Supreme Court administered the oath in an elaborate ceremony replete with military and religious rites.

The authorities here were obviously pleased by Mr Bush's presence, which is seen as a sign of Washington's approval for the Marcos regime.

The Philippine opposition, which boycotted the June 16 elections—that swept Marcos back into power with 88 per

cent of the vote, said it strongly disapproved of Mr Bush attending the inauguration.

Two men tried to burst through the tight security cordon surrounding Mr Bush, but apparently they had only wanted to present some documents to President Marcos. Mr Bush appeared to be disconcerted by the incident.

Mr Bush told Mr Marcos that the United States admired the Philippine adherence to democratic principles and democratic processes. America would never leave the Philippines isolated.

"In the degree we have any fibre and strength," he said, "we shall have failed you."—UPI and AP.

term, spoke of a "new republic" replacing eight years of martial law.

However, he did not announce any major policy decisions, nor did he mention specific projects in his speech. The President thanked the electorate for his victory, which he said had imposed on him "an obligation that I cannot shirk and a pledge that I dare not betray."

Let history judge me harshly on this—that until every Filipino can say with conviction that he has been liberated from ignorance, poverty, and disease, until, in sum, he can call his mind, body, and spirit his own, I shall have failed you."—UPI and AP.

Relief aid thefts checked by Somalia

From Helen Winternitz
Mogadishu, June 30

Somalia has begun to grapple with the problem of thefts from the food donated to refugees.

According to informed sources, significant amounts of food have been stolen or siphoned off from the relief aid system.

Although food intended for refugees can be seen at local markets around the country, the dearth of records has made it impossible to determine how much food has been stolen or by whom. Estimates from observers in the field vary from as little as 5 per cent to as much as 50 per cent.

With encouragement from Western diplomats and aid officials, the Somali Government has been attempting to put an end to the thefts. It has jailed several lorry drivers caught stealing food on the way to the refugee camps and dismissed government employees caught commandeering aid supplies, as well as regional officials, suspected of taking shares of surplus food from the over-supplied system.

A sharply reduced estimate of Somalia's refugee population is now being used to predict how much food the donor countries should give in the coming year.

For planning purposes we have arrived at a tentative figure, which is somewhere around 650,000," Mr Otto Hagenbuehle, the head of the Mogadishu office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said.

The donor countries may, on this basis, be giving less than they expected. But there must still be consultations. The Somali Government might not necessarily be very happy with the figure.

This assessment reduces by half the Somali Government estimate of 1,300,000 refugees. Although one of the world's poorest countries, Somalia has been granting asylum to refugees from the war and drought in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia for the past three years.

Last year, the West provided \$41m worth of food for the refugees.

The city where it never rains but it pours

From Karan Thapar, Lagos, June 30

Long before it starts to rain in Lagos, you can smell it in the air. A deceptive silence suddenly descends and the atmosphere turns heavy as if a warm blanket has been thrown around the world.

Then, suddenly, the deluge begins. A torrent of water falls straight and hard, obscuring all vision, splashing up to four feet off the ground, and it just rains and rains and rains.

Within minutes the city is a wash. The roads flood and disappear, trees and bushes snap and crash and the electricity poles usually flickers, falters and finally falls.

It is an eerie feeling, watching the million parallel lines of cascading water. Normally there is little thunder and even less lightning.

The inexperienced expatriate becomes a instant prisoner within the shelter of his home. The rising water outside seems to threaten to invade the house. Small holes on motorways deepen into chasms that alarm drivers as they inch through swamped streets, taking their direction from the electricity poles running alongside.

The first rains are an important event in Nigeria. The newspapers record their daily progress as they journey northwards, their imminent arrival relieving the spectre of drought in the dry savannah lands up-country. Rain is the principal source of the water in northern Nigeria, and its delayed arrival or insufficient duration can ruin crops just as surely as a swarm of locusts or plant disease.

But, in Lagos the rain plays havoc. Each downpour leaves several thousands of the city's two million slum dwellers homeless. Complete residential localities are rendered impassable while residents escape to their roof tops, clutching their miserable belongings and anxiously wondering if the water will rise still higher. For days after, the untarred streets of Maroko or Agege are fast flowing rivers and pedestrians wading through, trousers rolled above their knees and their shoes held in their hands.

Last weekend the first 15-hour continuous rainstorm of the year struck Lagos, and rivers of muddy water began pouring in through doors and windows.

Yet, Lagosians have stoically learnt to live with their rain. The resilient market "mamies" unfurl umbrellas and continue to squat beside their smuggled goods on sale, now wrapped in strips of plastic or old tarpaulin. The expressway hawkers suddenly produce enormous brightly coloured contraptions, practically the size of an English summer garden umbrella, which are snapped up by the drenched purchasers without even a murmur of bargaining. And all the while the hapless teams of navvies just strip to their underpants and cheerfully carry on with their work.

Lagos will remain drenched to the end of September. Then the sudden shock-burst of October and the onset of the dust-laden Harmattan winds sweeping south from the Sahara will drive out the damp and mildew and cover everything with soft, silt-like sand.

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Yet, Lagosians have stoically learnt to live with their rain. The resilient market "mamies" unfurl umbrellas and continue to squat beside their smuggled goods on sale, now wrapped in strips of plastic or old tarpaulin. The expressway hawkers suddenly produce enormous brightly coloured contraptions, practically the size of an English summer garden umbrella, which are snapped up by the drenched purchasers without even a murmur of bargaining. And all the while the hapless teams of navvies just strip to their underpants and cheerfully carry on with their work.

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Conflict in El Salvador

Armed opposition to election plan

From Stephen Downer, San Salvador

● This is the fourth part of our five-part series on Central America. The first part appeared on June 23.

Twenty-two thousand people have died violently in El Salvador since October 15, 1979, when a military coup ousted General Carlos Humberto Romero from the presidency, ending 50 years of undisputed dominance by the Army and conservative landowners.

The young Army officers who took over promised sweeping social reforms. They formed a governing junta of three civilians and two colonels, which nationalised banks and foreign trade and in March, 1980, introduced comprehensive agrarian reform.

Instead of bringing peace to the tiny country the size of Wales the reforms met strong resistance from all sides.

El Salvador, where five million people live, has a long history of violence, thanks mainly to its former feudal system of farming.

A peasant uprising cost more than 30,000 lives in the early 1930s. The peasants subsequently began organizing groups to fight the landowners, who in turn formed militias to protect themselves and their properties. The most notorious organization is Orden, standing for Democratic Revolutionary Organization.

Orden is said to have 80,000

members. Over the years it has ruthlessly eliminated anybody thought to advocate change, claiming invariably that such a person is a communist.

In the early 1970s urban guerrillas, some of them Marxists, began making their presence felt. Leading government officials and foreign and local businessmen were assassinated or kidnapped and huge sums paid in ransoms.

The coup in 1979 was intended to halt the violence. It received Washington's blessing but soon squabbles started.

The centre and left wingers claimed the old, conservative sectors of the Army were influencing decisions and protecting the conservative establishment. One by one, the moderate civilians on the junta stepped down and, with other disenchanted government officials, joined the opposition.

Last December, Señor José Napoleón Duarte, a Christian Democrat, became the country's first civilian President in 49 years.

With Colonel Jaime Abdul Gutiérrez as vice President and commander-in-chief of the armed forces and two other civilians, Señor José Antonio Morales Ebrilich a Christian Democrat and Señor José Romon Ayalos, an independent, the junta has survived.

The opposition claims it would not have done so without American support. Since last

October, the United States has given economic aid worth \$144m (£72m).

In March, the Reagan Administration sent between 50 and 60 non-combatant military advisers and there has been a marked improvement in the Army's efficiency.

Both the guerrillas and the Army take few, if any prisoners. The guerrilla Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front claims to be fighting the Army in 10 of the country's 14 departments.

The non-violent opposition is called the Revolutionary Democratic Front, and includes Social Democrats, dissident Christian Democrats, Communists, priests, university professors and trade union officials.

The guerrillas and the Front are united and are opposed to the Government's plans to hold elections to a national assembly early next year.

Señor Hector Ogueli, secretary of the international relations of the diplomatic and political committee of the two organizations said: "You need to have a different country to have elections—no state of siege, no political crimes, no political prisoners, no university occupied by the military."

The strengthening of defences at the United States Embassy, and the almost nightly bombing of banks and other businesses in San Salvador, are reminders that the Central American country still is far from peace.

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Law Report House of Lords

Damages cut by later illness

Jobling v Associated Dairies Ltd
Before Lord Wilberforce, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Keith of Kinkel and Lord Bridge of Harwich.
[Judgment delivered June 25]

Where a person is injured by the tortious act of another and brings an action for damages including loss of future earnings against the tortfeasor, but before the trial comes to be found to be suffering from an illness quite unconnected with the injury which makes him totally unfit for work in the future, the damages awarded against the tortfeasor should not include any sum for loss of future earnings from the date when his illness made him unfit to work.

The House of Lords in so deciding criticised the reasoning in its earlier decision in *Baker v Willoughby* (1970) AC 467 although considering that that case was correctly decided on its facts.

Their Lordships dismissed an appeal by Mr Alexander Jobling, former manager of a dairy shop at Eyre, Newcastle upon Tyne, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice Ackner, Lord Justice Goff). The Court of Appeal had allowed an appeal by the defendant, Associated Dairies Ltd, against the award of damages by Mr Justice Keeble for personal injuries sustained by Mr Jobling in 1972 when he was aged 45, by tripping on the floor of a meat refrigerator owing to his employers' breach of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1957.

The court had reduced the general damages awarded by the judge which had included £5,000 for future loss of earnings, on the ground that although Mr Jobling had been injured by a tortious act in 1972 at his place of work, he had not been injured as a result of a non-tortious event, namely, myelopathy, a supervening condition in no way connected with his injury at work, and that the employers were not liable in damages for that subsequent injury.

Mr Jobling's fall in 1972 injured his back, and in 1975 he had a further fall which aggravated his condition and incapacitated him for anything but light work. In September, 1976, he was found to be suffering from spondylosis myelopathy affecting his neck but unrelated to the accident. The disease by the end of 1976 had rendered him totally unfit for work. According to an agreed medical report, there were no discernible signs or symptoms of myelopathy at the date of the accident in 1972.

The question arising was whether the defendant was liable to pay damages for loss of earnings on the basis of a partial incapacity continuing throughout the period which, but for the myelopathy, would have been his working life, or whether his liability was limited to loss of earnings up to the time when the myelopathy resulted in total incapacity.

Mr Justice Keeble decided in favour of the greater liability, taking the view that he was bound, on the authority of *Baker v Willoughby*, to award damages for the loss of earnings on the basis of the quantum of damages awarded by Mr Justice Keeble for personal injuries sustained by Mr Jobling in 1972 when he was aged 45, by tripping on the floor of a meat refrigerator owing to his employers' breach of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1957.

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before the trial of the action, which illness gave rise to a greater degree of incapacity than that caused by the accident. No dispute arose on the sums awarded by the judge other than that the award was too high. On the agreed medical reports it was accepted that the myelopathy was a disease supervening after the original injury. If it had been dormant but existing at that date it was not disputed that it would have had to be taken into account in the actual condition found to exist at the trial. It was submitted for Mr Jobling that a different result followed if the origin of the disease took place after the tortious act which gave rise to the claim. That distinction was unattractive, if only because it would place both potential medical witnesses and the judge who had to value their evidence in an impossible position.

His Lordship said that to attempt a solution on classical legal principles was no longer possible. We did not live in a world governed by pure common law and its logical rules but in a mixed world where tort was protected by a web of rules and dispositions, with a number of timid legislative interventions. To attempt to compartmentalise tort on the basis of logical inconsistencies, or to over-extend compensation to industrial injury cases, there seemed no justification for distinguishing the rule which the injured man's employer was insured - since 1972 compulsory - against liability for his employees. Nor was there any reason to distinguish between the fact that the plaintiff was entitled to sickness and invalidity benefits in respect of his myelopathy, the amount of which might depend on his contribution record, which in turn might have been affected by his accident.

There was no reason to distinguish whether he would be over-compensated if he were, in addition, to receive the assessed damages from his employer, or under-compensated if left to his benefit. It was not easy to accept a solution by which a partially incapacitated man became worse off in terms of damages and benefit through a greater degree of incapacity.

His Lordship concluded, without any satisfaction, that no general, logical, or universal rule could be stated which would be applicable to many of the supervening events, whether due to tortious, partially tortious, non-tortious, or wholly accidental events.

The courts could only deal with each case as best it could. It was not the function of the law to rationalise the decision, as to which his Lordship had doubts, and which should not be applied to other cases.

In the present case the Court of Appeal had reached the unwelcome conclusion that to apply *Baker* to the present facts would produce an unjust result, the supervening myelopathy should not be disregarded.

He would dismiss the appeal. LORD EDMUND-DAVIES, concurring, said *Baker* was different in one important respect from the present case, for the House was concerned with successive torts.

Lord Reid, had based his conclusion in *Baker* largely on the fact that the defendant (1913) 2 KB 581; and the House (with the exception of Lord Pearson) had held that "causation" was not a question of fact, but a question of law, applying the *Harwood* decision, a case under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906 - to the different cases giving rise to the common law claim for damages in *Baker*.

His Lordship declined to follow the House in *Harwood*, with its different facts requiring to be considered in the light of a statute, was applied without qualification to the common law claim in *Baker*.

The attraction of *Baker* was that it avoided what was regarded as an unacceptable result, as it provided a later measure of protection for the victim.

Mr Jobling's counsel submitted that no materiality resided in the fact that the present case was not a case of successive torts, but that *Baker* was of a tort followed by greater and enveloping injury arising from independent natural causes. He relied on the proposition that a defendant "must take his plaintiff as he finds him".

It was a truism that cases of cumulative causation of damage could present problems of great complexity. His Lordship could formulate no just or logical rule which would support the decision of the House in *Baker*.

As a matter of policy, *Baker* might be acceptable on its own facts. But what was clear was that where the issue related to the assessment of damages when a tort had been committed, a tort was not to be followed by a wholly unconnected and disabling illness, the decision in *Baker* was not to be followed.

The Court of Appeal's decision that the defendant was liable for the loss of earnings after the onset of myelopathy was therefore untrammelled by precedent.

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Racing

Master Willie stands his ground at 2-1

By Michael Seely

Master Willie remained favourite at 2-1 with the sponsors at the four-day stage of acceptors for the Epsom Stakes at Sandown Park on Saturday. There were 11 declared, including Hard Fought, Redaction, Violette and Madam Gay who will be ridden by Lester Piggott. Vincent O'Brien has accepted with both Last Tango and King's Lake. And his selected gelding, the 10-year-old Master Willie and Hard Fought a run for their money.

Nons of the French candidates have been named. A second round of the Epsom Stakes will be held on Sunday at Epsom.

Backers at Great Yarmouth yesterday received a shock in the Epsom Stakes when the 10-year-old gelding, Master Willie, who was the first and second choice, was beaten by the 11-year-old gelding, Hard Fought, who was the third and fourth choice.

The winner was not Piggott's mount, Vincent O'Brien's gelding, Master Willie, who was the first and second choice, was beaten by the 11-year-old gelding, Hard Fought, who was the third and fourth choice.

But the Newmarket trainer had every reason to feel pleased with himself as there were several factors in his favour. Master Willie was a gelding, a fact which was not taken into account in the assessment of the race.

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Bleasdale is punished but not his employer

By Michael Seely

Jimmy Bleasdale, the Northern-based jockey, was fined £100 at a Jockey Club disciplinary hearing in London yesterday. Bleasdale and his employer, the Middleham trainer Chris Thornton, were charged with breaching the rules of the Jockey Club by allowing Bleasdale to ride on a horse which was not entered in the race.

The next race, the Debbage Handicap, was held at Ascot. Bleasdale, the three-year-old, was much more useful to carry in future handicaps after his second in the Queen's Vase at Ascot. He is still a big unfurnished horse, but now gives him a rest until the Autumn.

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Carlisle programme

2.30 BECTIVE STAKES (Selling: 3-y-o: £704: 15

3.00 SCOTBY AUCTION STAKES (2-y-o Maidens: £755: 5)

4.30 CATTLE STAKES (3-y-o Maidens: £757: 15m)

5.00 BORDER HANDICAP (£1,385: 5f)

6.00 BURGH BARONY RACES COMMEMORATION CUP HANDICAP (£796: 13m)

7.00 GREAT YARMOUTH CARD

8.00 GREAT YARMOUTH CARD

9.00 GREAT YARMOUTH CARD

10.00 GREAT YARMOUTH CARD

11.00 GREAT YARMOUTH CARD

12.00 GREAT YARMOUTH CARD

Cricket

Gifford's guile sets up well-earned win for Worcestershire

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

WORCESTERSHIRE (23 pts) beat Yorkshire (4) by three wickets.

An excellent cricket match ended with Worcestershire scoring the 288 wickets to beat Yorkshire with one ball to spare. Without the need of a last-day declaration, it was a good team performance, with a few Worcestershire players up to the challenge of the Yorkshire batsmen.

Neale and Scott laid the foundations of victory with a second-wicket partnership of 115. Neale, who was batting on his 100th birthday, was well served by his partner, Scott, who was batting on his 100th birthday. Neale, who was batting on his 100th birthday, was well served by his partner, Scott, who was batting on his 100th birthday.

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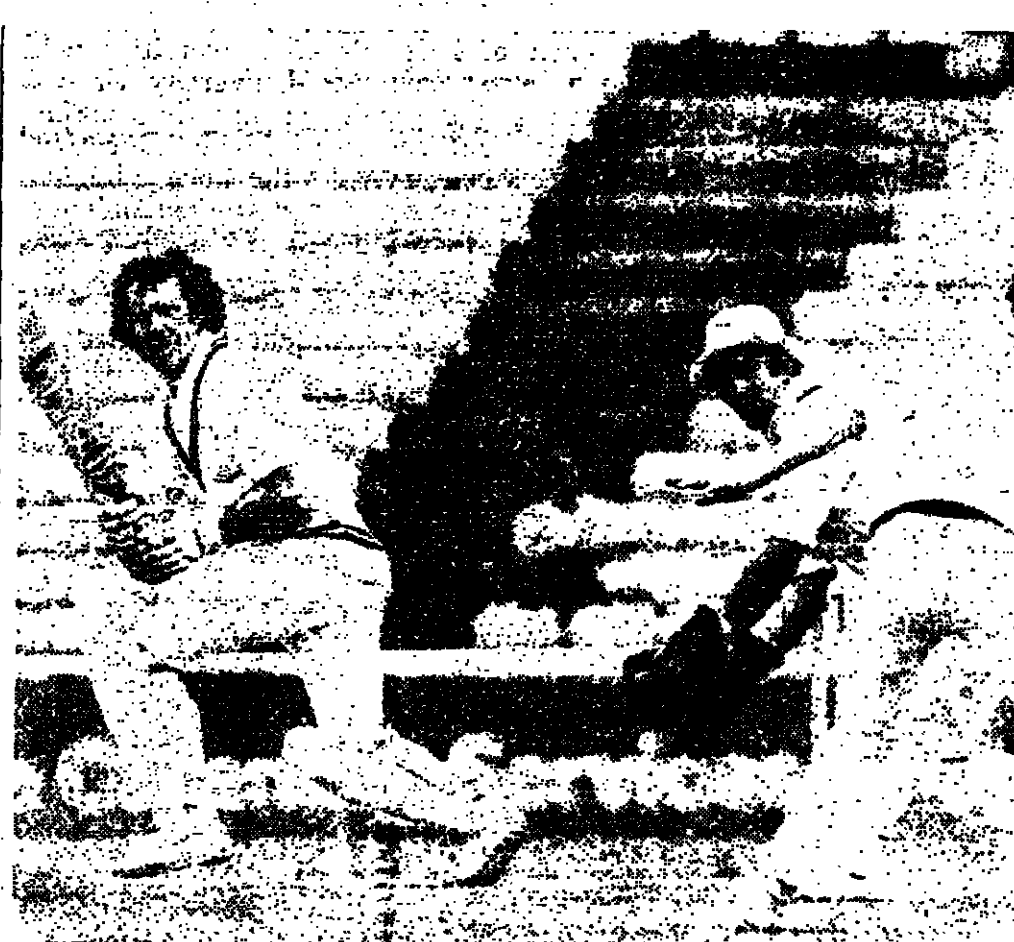
Broad smile, but there is a catch to it

By Alan Gibson
Cricket Correspondent

GLOUCESTER (6pts) drew with Warwickshire (7).

There was once a Baptist minister in the Isle of Wight who was invited to return for a visit to his former flock. He began his sermon by saying how pleasant it was to see the old faces again. He then said that he had been thinking of the Gloucestershire cricket team, and how they had been doing so well.

The Gloucestershire cricket team, who were batting on their 100th birthday, were well served by their partner, Scott, who was batting on his 100th birthday. Gloucestershire, who were batting on their 100th birthday, were well served by their partner, Scott, who was batting on his 100th birthday.



One for the boundary from a man on the brink of a century: Roope digs in before lunch.

Larkins makes a plea for sanity

By Alan Ross

Northamptonshire (8 pts) drew with Surrey (6).

Surrey, batting on a shade complacently to reach 200 for four at lunch, set Northamptonshire 207 to win in exactly four hours. With Williams and Larkins suffering from the after-effects of Clarke's bowling, Northamptonshire were never really in the hunt.

Williams made a composed and occasionally brilliant 77, but on a sunny evening it was ultimately more a question of whether the Surrey spinners could gnaw their way through the batting.

Northamptonshire, losing six wickets for 181, helped them with some careless strokes but several fairly easy catches were put down off Imtikhah, at crucial moments.

Larkins needed only one run to reach his thousand in June, and duly got them. This is rightly considered a less memorable feat than a thousand in May, but Zahner, because of the weather, did not have the opportunity to play a single first-class innings in May.

Furthermore, so far as the records can tell us, only Grace and Hammond, among Gloucestershire batsmen, have ever scored a thousand runs in a month before.

Zahner had reached 50 at tea. Higgin had been bowled by Small, but Procter was in, and with 156 to go, he was not out.

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Brearley leads his side to an unlikely victory

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

NOTTINGHAM: Middlesex (21 pts) beat Norths (8) by 112 runs.

A game of cricket with five balls to spare, a result which had not appeared remotely likely when they were struggling at 57 for 8 on the first morning, or even when they began their second innings 158 behind Nottinghamshire.

Nottinghamshire changed the course of the game. He began yesterday with 89 to his name and extended an innings of monumental patience to 131. He batted for almost 11 hours and although Edmonds fell seven short of his century, there was enough to leave Nottinghamshire for Middlesex to reach 336, leaving Nottinghamshire to score 239 for victory in 205 minutes.

At Middlesex, it was not a particularly difficult target but Hughes and Embury ensured that Nottinghamshire were in a position to chase it. After Todd had been removed, there was unaccustomed Middlesex delight when for the second time in the match, their scheme to dismiss Randall worked like a three card trick.

Hughes, as on Saturday, offered him a second ball. Randall could not resist the bait and was caught in the square leg area. During the day, Hughes had offered an invitation to join the England party because of doubts about 'Whiffy's' fitness. Randall has a shrewd instinct. It did not prevent him holding a miraculous catch in the square leg area which was the last of his wickets.

When Hession, Robinson and Shire, at 63 for five, could hope only for a second ball, Hughes, with his smooth, high action, caused constant anxiety and, after Rich, he was the last to fall. Hughes, who had been dismissed in the previous match, was back in the middle and he was not out.

The time taken meant that the final hour was eventful. First Hession swept full bloodedly and hit off Hughes. Hughes tried to sweep again and edged the ball into his own mouth. He needed attention on the pitch and was led off by the umpire.

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Sussex take touring side out for a late spin

By Richard Streeton

HASTINGS: Sussex beat the Sri-Lankans by 82 runs.

A day's cricket against the Sussex spinners, Waller and Barclay, brought the Sri-Lankans their first defeat of their tour yesterday. The Sri-Lankans, who were batting on their 100th birthday, were well served by their partner, Scott, who was batting on his 100th birthday.

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Hampshire win run chase with nine balls to spare

By Alan Ross

MANCHESTER: Hampshire (24 pts) beat Lancashire (4) by 100 runs.

Hampshire won their third county championship game of the season when they beat Lancashire by two wickets in a tight finish at Old Trafford. Chasing 219 to win, Hampshire were well served by their partner, Scott, who was batting on his 100th birthday.

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Championship table

| Team | Pts | Wickets | Runs |
|------------------|-----|---------|------|
| Surrey | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Middlesex | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Nottinghamshire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Gloucestershire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Warwickshire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Northamptonshire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Sussex | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Hampshire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Lancashire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Leicestershire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Derbyshire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Essex | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Gloucestershire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Warwickshire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Northamptonshire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Sussex | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Hampshire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Lancashire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Leicestershire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Derbyshire | 21 | 112 | 239 |
| Essex | 21 | 112 | 239 |

Miandad strikes third century in succession

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

SWANSEA: Glamorgan (8 pts) drew with Somerset (5).

Javed Miandad, the Pakistan Test captain, yesterday became the first Glamorgan player for 31 years to hit three centuries in successive innings. He scored 137 not out and 106 in the drawn first and second innings, and 106 in the drawn third.

Glamorgan began with an overcast day and a light breeze. Miandad, who was batting on his 100th birthday, was well served by his partner, Scott, who was batting on his 100th birthday.

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Ali admitted to hospital with pneumonia

By John Woodcock

Chicago, June 30.—Muhammad Ali, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, is in hospital with pneumonia but still talking about another ring comeback.

It was learned that Ali, 39, was admitted to hospital here on Friday last week.

Ali said last night: "I'm in top-notch shape, but for the last two weeks I've been feeling tired and sleepless. I came into hospital to check it out. They told me I had walking pneumonia."

Ali, who retired after losing to Larry Holmes last October, said he expected to be released within the next two days and would return to his training camp in Lake, Pennsylvania.

The only man to win the world heavyweight championship three times said he wanted to fight several exhibitions still good enough to challenge Holmes or the number one contender, Gerry Cooney.

"I can still fight. I can still fight," Ali said.

Successful defence: Samuel Serrano, of Puerto Rico, scored a unanimous points victory over Leonel Hernandez, of Venezuela, in Caracas last night to retain his World Boxing Association junior heavyweight title. Serrano, 23, 3in 11, won by a knockout in the 10th round.

The champion, who has a career record of 42 wins, said: "With or without a knockout I knew that I would be the winner. Hernandez, 28, announced his retirement from the ring after his defeat."

Cycling

By John Woodcock

Hinault pulls Australian into the yellow jersey

Luchon, on the first gentle slopes of the nine-mile-long Col de Peyre soude. Among the first victims of the change in gear were Gerrie Knetemann, wearing the yellow jersey, and Freddy Maertens, wearing the green.

Again, Hinault stepped on the accelerator and by the 15th kilometre, the Bretonman's only remaining companions were Anderson and Alberto Fernandez of Spain.

The first substantial group, containing riders like Alban and Laurent of France, De Wolf and Wellens of Belgium, de Veldre of the Netherlands and the American champion Jonathan Boyer, followed at nearly three minutes.

Last year's Tour winner, Joop Zoetemelk, along with the fabled Agostino of Portugal and Bernardini of France, were more than three minutes adrift, while Knetemann had already conceded more than five minutes.

Following a rapid descent to the valley of the Aude, the first six riders joined forces to reach St. Lary with less than two minutes lead on a bunch of 25, which included both the Van de Velde and Zoetemelk parties. But any hopes entertained by these chasers were quickly scotched by Van Impe, the 5ft 6in tall Belgian, who made a brave lone break as soon as the gradient steepened.

Hinault seemed content to allow Van Impe plenty of rope, perhaps hoping that he would asphyxiate himself on the crowd-lined mountain road. But he did not weaken and in the final kilometre he cracked, then the two Spaniards, leaving only the 24-year-old Australian to follow the world champion's rapidly revolving wheels.

SIXTH STAGE: 1. L. Van Impe (Belgium) 3:58.00; 2. J. Hinault (France) 3:58.00; 3. A. Fernandez (Australia) 3:58.00; 4. A. Fernandez (Australia) 3:58.00; 5. A. Fernandez (Australia) 3:58.00; 6. A. Fernandez (Australia) 3:58.00.

Rugby Union

By Iain Mackenzie

All work and no play makes Jack dull socially

The Scottish tour of New Zealand, which ended a few days ago, was an odd mixture of work and play. The tour was played, but the players were not playing. The tour was played, but the players were not playing.

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Wolff the latest of France's injury problems

By Iain Mackenzie

Canberra, June 30.—The injury worries of the French touring rugby team are not over yet. Jean Paul Wolff, a winger, was injured in training yesterday and is expected to miss the game against Australia.

A French official said Wolff, aged 21, would not play against Australia in Brisbane on Sunday. His replacement is likely to be Cernuschi, who showed no reaction to his neck injury after training today.

Rives, the captain, could not train after dislocating his shoulder against New Zealand last Saturday, and two other players are also doubtful for the first international.

There was brighter news for the hooker Dintans, whose injured ankle stood up to today's test, and the second row forward, Ray, who, trained despite a stitched ear.

ACT are weakened by the absence of two under-21 internationals, Giron, James and Thompson, who are playing in New Zealand. After a poor start to the season, ACT have done well in recent matches, with wins against Waikato, the Ranfurly Shield holders, Australian Combined Services and Queensland.

Boxing

By John Woodcock

Van Impe: rewarded for a brave lone break.

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THE ARTS

Dance

The Berlin Ballet's latest literary marathon

Two years ago Valery Panov choreographed Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*. This week he has turned to Tolstoy and *War and Peace*, with a little help from Tchaikovsky. John Percival reports from West Berlin.

The news that Valery Panov was to produce a ballet based on Tolstoy's great Napoleonic novel broke on the night that his first literary-choreographic blockbuster, *The Idiot*, was premiered. At the time he was talking of presenting the work in two parts, each taking up a whole evening. Luckily he changed his mind.

Even in the more compressed treatment he devised, *War and Peace* lasts nearly four hours and uses a cast that sometimes looks like thousands, with the Berlin ballet supplemented by the movement chorus of the Deutsche Oper and pupils from their own ballet school and the Berliner Tanzakademie. The scale on which West Berlin's opera house works is almost unimaginable to English audiences, especially as the action also needs vast quantities of stagehands to manipulate the swift scene-changes.

Paradoxically, however, this is in a sense an almost intimate ballet, concerning itself mostly with only three of the characters and often leaving the big stage to just two of them for long periods. I wonder, in fact, whether Panov might have done better to have been far more ruthless in his concentration on the foreground figures.

His handling of crowds shows a real flair for production but not much of dance interest, a lack he shares with most choreographers today. The advance of the French army on Moscow and their broken retreat are both shown in big tableaux, largely static. The use of huge shadows on the backcloth, the groups with their banners, are well handled, but that is hardly enough if the first two words of the ballet's title are to be justified.

War, in fact, is rather summarily dismissed during the middle part of the third act. Napoleon dances a couple of furiously fast solos, in which the diminutive but brilliant Sándor Némethy duly dazzles.

Between them, the two for a few moments at a table with a prisoner writhing in despair. The programme identifies him as Platon Karateyev, and for all I know he may have appeared in some of the earlier scenes too, but if so he never had a chance to establish any character and consequently his plight made no particular dramatic point.

Actually, even with his main characters, motivation and plot development are not the strongest aspects of Panov's production. This time he himself plays Pierre as a kindly, shy chap, smiling with vague benevolence whenever he is not upset by his wife's misbehaviour or the loss of his spectacles; disasters which seem to affect him almost equally until he throws her and her brother out of his house.

Tom Van Cauwenbergh smiles less as Andrei, except in the scenes when the two men are together, but otherwise the character turns out not much different from Pierre; the one might almost be a younger version of the other. Both come over as attractive, intelligent men, but the contrasts that could give edges to their relationship and drama to their situation are hardly developed.

What has to be said in Panov's favour, however, is that both roles are made on a scale that enables the dancer to build up to a great impact. It had been intended that Frank Augustyn (a recruit to the Berlin Ballet from Canada this season) should be the first cast for Pierre, but injury prevented that. Panov, an outstanding character dancer, is a little stretched at times by some of the arduous solos he has set for the role, but he manages to make energy and determination do what would once have come through sheer technique, and he is entirely at home in the arduous of the duets.

Cauwenbergh was brought into the ballet as a replacement, too, when Vladimir Gelvan was hurt, but happily he arrived early enough during rehearsals to get right inside the role. His is a tremendous performance, dancing with powerful virtuosity in the heroic Russian style and establishing an easy dominance of the stage at all times.

I imagine we shall see more of him as a partner for Galina Panova (Natasha), a dancer of great success in this ballet. As she showed earlier in *The Idiot*, Panova has developed greatly since her only extended appearances in London, as a guest in the Festival Ballet. Her slight build and delicate appearance

contain a dynamo of unexpected strength, both in physical prowess and in character. From her first appearance as the child Natasha dancing in the garden of her parents' home (some splendidly idyllic entries there with Linda Thorpe, excellent as her cousin Sonia), she lets the character grow with every scene. The ballet ends with two long duets, one in which she comforts and mourns the dying Andrei, another in which she finds consolation and eventually love with Pierre. To go straight from one to the other, almost immediately after her seduction and abduction by Anatole too, must be almost

impossibly demanding, but she meets every moment with exactly the right response. Jean-Pierre Liegeois as a mustel, dare-devil Anatole, David Rolap as a sneeringly contemptuous Dolobov and Heidrun Schwarz as a coldly seductive Helena, make a strong worldly-wise trio in

opposition to Pierre's idealism, but otherwise the large supporting cast remains more or less anonymous crowd, used mainly to start various scenes with some excessively regimented dancing, but soon swept aside to let the main characters implausibly occupy acres of a ballroom or whatever all on their own.

Günther Schneider-Siemssen has devised a decor using mainly pictures projected on to screens behind and at either side of the stage, supplemented sometimes by minimal furnishings. It works better for rustic or domestic seclusion than imperial splendour, thus reinforcing my thought that Panov would have been wiser to stick with the essence of a personal drama, which he conveys rather well, and to suggest the world events only as a background.

The music, for me, clinches that belief. For *The Idiot*, Panov in conjunction with the conductor, Michael Heise, assembled pieces by Shostakovich with great skill to constitute a ballet score of great distinction. They started with the idea of working similarly on *War and Peace* with music by Prokofiev, but his widow decided against that, largely because of the existence of his opera on the same subject.

After considering other possibilities, from Beethoven to Borodin, they settled for Tchaikovsky. Individually the episodes they are used for and reinforce the emotional impact. But the whole has nothing of the distinction of the *Idiot* score because it sounds too much a ragbag.

Starting with the first movement of the first piano concerto and ending with the second movement of the fifth symphony, it includes extracts from three other symphonies (nos 4, 6 and 'Manfred'), two orchestral suites, a trio and a quartet, various overtures (1812 of course for the French retreat), several of *The Seasons*, two dances from operas and the Russian dance from *Swan Lake*. Less familiar music might have made a more varied score, but this sounds too much like Tchaikovsky's *Greatest Hits* and the result is ultimately self-defeating.

A brave, ambitious attempt, then, with many fine things in it, but not really a development of what Panov achieved in *The Idiot*. Now he goes on to stage *Petrushka* and *Scheherazade* for Vienna, revival of *Cinderella* for Zurich and *The Three Sisters* (to Rachmaninov music) for Stockholm. One certainly cannot complain that he does not try.

and there are passages like a particularly ugly attempted rape that are not comic at all. Mr Caird sets the piece in the round on a box-lined floor with a chimney in the fifth costume that blossoms with Ultr's perukes, silks, and outlandish furs.

The whole emphasis is on the artificiality of dressing-up, whether in the case of the gallant Captain Trueman (Simon Templeman) who passes himself off as a constable, or the malignant Benjamin, changing from greasy rags into a lordly nut and grotesque white wig to hold his first levee for a crowd of blanch-faced supplicants. Characters who are characters are exempt from this process. Miriam Karlin wickles agreeable Mandrake goes through the whole thing in a vast padded creation.

The second half of the piece, though it does not sustain the comic drive of the opening, fully maintains narrative vigour. Even virtuous brother Hermes (Miles Anderson) gets laughs when he loses his spectacles. And Mike Gwilym's Benjamin, beginning as a reprobate with a grudge against the people when Romulus disappeared from mortal sight during a storm. Historians suggested that the festival commemorated the flight of the Romans when attacked by their neighbours from Fidenae after the Gallic sack of Rome. I guess that some pretty terrifying powers were evoked at the ritual.

All that we know about this puzzling, mad jog is recorded under July 5 in Professor Scullard's information service of "What's on in Orb today?" It is of general interest to anybody curious about religion and the roots of our civilization. For example, you can discover the origins of our custom of giving cash for presents and wearing paper hats at Christmas, and the reason that a bride wears a veil and is carried over the threshold. As a potentially

dangerous stranger who might offend the household spirits, your Roman bride also had to smear the doorposts with wolf's fat.

The Roman festivals and games in honour of the gods were held on fixed dates throughout the year, forming an example for the holy and saints' days of the Christian churches. The central part of this scholarly but readable book consists of a detailed calendar of these ceremonies from January the First, celebrated as cheerfully by the Romans as by the Glaswegians, to December 25, the winter solstice in the Julian calendar, which became important with the establishment of the cult of the Unconquered Sun. The choice of this day to celebrate the Nativity of Christ, probably in opposition to Sol Invictus, is first attested in the calendar of Philocalus in AD 336.

There are useful preliminary chapters on such matters as the elements of magic and taboo in prehistoric Roman beliefs; treatment of such allied topics as triumphs and ovals; a plan of the temple and all that the plain man is ever going to need to know about the affairs of Jupiter, Venus, and the others, whose cult still influences us vestigially from Mother's Day to Christmas.

Philip Howard



A partnership for the future: Tom Van Cauwenbergh (Andrei) and Galina Panova (Natasha).

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There are useful preliminary chapters on such matters as the elements of magic and taboo in prehistoric Roman beliefs; treatment of such allied topics as triumphs and ovals; a plan of the temple and all that the plain man is ever going to need to know about the affairs of Jupiter, Venus, and the others, whose cult still influences us vestigially from Mother's Day to Christmas.

Philip Howard

Television

Spoils of War/ Years of Lightning/ Night of the Humming Bird/ China: Women

Granada/ATV/ BBC 1/Thames

It is autumn 1951 in Granada, and granddad is aging fast. Blake is in danger of losing Ros. Jean is beginning to find peace with Charlie who has borrowed a car and goes off on a picnic from which he will never return. Thelma, panting on her back, is bringing new life into the family covered by "Push". "Ah", Peg, meanwhile, has fallen out with Steve, so Lil and Pete. . . .

I knew after the first five furiously explanatory minutes that this was too stupid to follow. The Spoils of War, and it was some consolation to find that the characters were too stupid as well. When they were not engaged in laborious running commentary they questioned one another desperately. "Mrs Warrington, you don't remember me?" asked a pretty girl at the hospital where George lay. For once in this cardboard charade a line rang true: "No, I don't think I do."

Over at ATV, in *Years of Lightning*, it was 1947: really. Andrew Piddington's compilation of images of the fifth year, of snows and shortages, songs and speeches, was one of the most seductive and atmospheric scrapbook exercises I have ever seen and in one household at least it has been gratefully transferred to videotape.

The producer apparently

wanted to "let events speak for themselves", and accordingly abjured the use of a narrator. The approach has certain limitations. Every collage has its tone, and the one thus chirrupily ironical. If events did speak, it was in too equivocal a manner for any clear sense to emerge.

Reviewers have already been shown the corresponding collage for 1963—beards, train robberies, presidents getting shot—and it really adds up to very little. 1947 got by on its strangeness. Britain then looked like Poland now.

Back at the BBC it was 1934: June 30, to be exact. Sir Hugh Greeb's reminiscent portrait of the moment when Hitler dealt with Roehm filled one tiny patch of the ground so expertly covered by Andrew Molly last week in his history of the SS.

For all its protestations of significance, *Night of the Humming Bird* seemed rather like a long-winded affair. Much was made of "visuals", and much money was presumably spent on lumbering reconstructions of the operation's less story moments. No point in carping though: the combination of gaudy archive film and interviews with surviving veterans of the operation told a memorable tale.

Michael Whyte's work is normally superb, but his *China: Women* was stupefying. The camera, which always freezes British radicals into attitudes of holy awe. Did it hurt when your feet were bound? Do you like four or five? Do you wear a bra? In their scrupulous zeal to avoid capitalist prejudice, commentary, questions and cameras seemed turned alike to stone.

Michael Church

Rock

Kraftwerk

Hammersmith Palais

Kraftwerk's Ralf Hütter and Florian Schneider once described themselves, with characteristically quiet humour, as "the children of Fritz Lang and Werner von Braun". The stage set they revealed on Monday night, to audible gasps from the audience, looked indeed like something von Braun might have designed in a spare moment for Lang to use on the set of a sci-fi B-movie in the futuristic fifties.

The gasps came because the set was so beautiful: a grey backcloth, four large video screens jumping with static, and a vast bank of electronic modules which are the group's instruments. Even when it is unoccupied, lights blink on the desk—graphic equalizers, noise gates, sequencers, and more of the unceasing processes of some gnomish electronic intelligence. None of the dangling patch-cords which disfigured first-generation synthesizers, of course, and none of the accoutrements of the standard rock band: Kraftwerk adjust their own sound balance without the aid of a mixing board, and the only visible technicians are the musicians themselves. Once the initial pleasure at such sharp aesthetics has worn off, however, the flaw in the show becomes apparent: it is so bravely and resolutely static.

that one might as well have stayed home and played their records, watching the TV with the contrast up. The boosting of the bass frequencies to a level well above the capacity of a domestic hi-fi represents the only modification, although it is worth hearing it because it enhances their ability to manipulate rhythm with great subtlety and confirms their status as a terrific disco band.

Assisted by Karl Bartos and Wolfgang Flür, who play synthesizers on the stage, Hütter and Schneider also demonstrate their highly developed pop sensibilities in more than a few songs. "Computer Love", "Ohm Sweet Ohm" and "Showroom Dummies": the pristine synthesizer tones they prefer lend their frigid melodic hook phrases a sometimes infuriating catchiness. The lengthier set-pieces, "Autobahn" and "Trans-Europe Express", contain adventurous and successful programmatic devices, but are not significantly altered in live performance.

Their special combination of rigour, calmness and humour makes for a performance which is both a pleasure and a pain, but it will also certainly allow them to stay ahead of the clutches of clueless plagiarists. In their field, Kraftwerk continue to represent the state of the art.

Richard Williams

Book

Festivals and Ceremonies of the Roman Republic

By H. H. Scullard

(Thames & Hudson, £12)

Sunday next, III. Non. Quint. . . . mystery festival of Popligræ, the Fligæ, the People. Even the Romans were not sure why they all had to run like hell, and the devil take the hindmost. Some invented an etiological myth: the flight of the people when Romulus disappeared from mortal sight during a storm. Historians suggested that the festival commemorated the flight of the Romans when attacked by their neighbours from Fidenæ after the Gallic sack of Rome. I guess that some pretty terrifying powers were evoked at the ritual.

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Philip Howard

Theatre

Irish dimensions

The Other Side

Irish Club

It is an Irish play, although not quite to its core, so it is easy to understand why it has joined the repertoire of Green Fields and Far Away, the touring theatre company that comes to Irish communities in England. Underneath the text, however, there is a lesson that is not particularly Irish, that is rather a defence of the old guard of the Labour Party against the rise of the Bennites; that suggests that the new reselection process is a self-serving invention of corrupt opportunists.

James Pettifer has placed it cleverly in a tale of machinations against the Irish community of London, in a structure that borrows significantly from *Measure for Measure* and Shakespeare's portrait of the good duke who finds that he has left his land in the hands of a lecherous villain, but it is only a toss of a coin that might detract from the main lesson. The redeeming quality on the political side is that Mr Pettifer's substitute for the duke is himself a dubious hero, a north London MP who pretends to take a holiday in his native Ireland in order to discredit his deputy, a political animal imported from Transpore House.

Where the parallels with Shakespeare are nearest, in the first half, the play has a hard time engaging in action. The blarney

of the Irish characters gives it moment to moment comedy, but Mr Pettifer strains to match his characters with the originals, forcing the substitute MP played by Alan Ford to espouse leftist puritanical views to match the religious puritanism of the substitute duke. Lacking the power of re-prieve, he has the power of a word in the ear of the Special Branch, and he promises to use it for the favours of a Camden Town collector who intervenes for her "brother", a harmless Irishman about to be deported under the Prevention of Terrorism Act as part of Mr Ford's purge of Irish party members.

On the premises of the Irish Club in Euston Square, *The Other Side* looks to be an Irish farce of more promise than substance. The portrait of a corrupt Bennite would look more political elsewhere, but Vladimir Mirodan coaxes mainly friendly entertainment from an exceptionally benign company.

Ned Chaillet

The Twin Rivals

Other Place

Here is another RSC discovery that confirms studio production as the source of classical vitality. *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Recruiting Officer* may be established favourites, but what main house is going to take a risk on this earlier Farquhar comedy with its dismal performance record? On the floor of the Other Place, it is now thrillingly unveiled as an unknown work by a great writer: a crucial link between the narrow Restoration world and the open English landscape of Farquhar's landscape, presented by a director (John Caird) who believes in it and sees a way of making it work.

The Twin Rivals is assembled from the familiar comic components with the difference that Farquhar juggles them into a new order. His central character, Benjamin Woudbe, is a hump-backed prodigal who takes over the family estate while his elder brother is out of the country. In Wycherley he would be the hero; here he is the villain. As usual, there are two girls who share all their secrets which do not include the expected stratagems of man-catching. The old formula of comic lechery, moneyed male privilege and literary self-indulgence is on the way out.

Everything relates to plot, with the exception of a few terse exchanges where Farquhar extols human worth above social rank. The problem in performance is that the concept of everybody being stage. There is splendidly



Miriam Karlin, Mike Gwilym

Photograph by Donald Cooper

wickedness" too high for comedy and too low for tragedy. Up to the moment of Benjamin's seizure of the estate there is no problem. The action shifts along with pace and urgency, introducing not only vigorous stereotypes but fully developed characters like Mrs. Mandrake, a midwife-bawd who seems to have fixed up the conception of everybody on stage. There is splendidly

ruthless detail, such as the preparation of a bogus will by knocking in the requisite wig, open with a mallet to insert a vital codicil as the last words to come from the dead man's mouth. Also, at this stage of the story, you want the villain to succeed.

Once brother Hermes returns from foreign parts to claim his inheritance, the intrigue becomes much more complicated, and there are passages like a particularly ugly attempted rape that are not comic at all. Mr Caird sets the piece in the round on a box-lined floor with a chimney in the fifth costume that blossoms with Ultr's perukes, silks, and outlandish furs.

The whole emphasis is on the artificiality of dressing-up, whether in the case of the gallant Captain Trueman (Simon Templeman) who passes himself off as a constable, or the malignant Benjamin, changing from greasy rags into a lordly nut and grotesque white wig to hold his first levee for a crowd of blanch-faced supplicants. Characters who are characters are exempt from this process. Miriam Karlin wickles agreeable Mandrake goes through the whole thing in a vast padded creation.

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Philip Howard

Film romance that leaves one guessing

The Competition, which recently had its premiere here in the presence of the Queen, is a first feature film for the writer-director Joel Olsansky. He is a bluff, fiftyish, leonine New Yorker, who has the professional good sense not to decry shamefully his years spent making television films in Hollywood.

Working in television is rather like writing for newspapers, he says. Everybody's interests to get on with it. Making films is like magazine writing — everybody from the teaboy to the financier wants to fill the extra time allowed by suggesting their own improvements. To this great relief Columbia, who financed *The Competition*, left him alone to do the final cut although he could not get approval for this, in his contract. They were no doubt encouraged by the fact that at 10 million dollars he only went half a million over budget.

It is one of those films in the manner of Ken Russell and Robert Swigwood which can hardly go wrong on paper due to an arranged marriage between emotive pictures and stirring music. In practice they often have a less than satisfactory storyline. Olsansky, whose television episodes include courtroom sagas and police thrillers, wisely guessed that a love story must have as much



Joel Olsansky

drama as any other story. In setting it against an international piano competition he had the help of the music and the professional rivalries. Nowadays, it seems, the old formula of boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl, is not enough. People are embarrassed by a happy ending. An unhappy ending, Olsansky's original intention, is also corny. In the revised version the director "gives the couple about six months" after the end of the

movie. "One day I said you really can't do a 1947 Joan Crawford ending. You can't charge five dollars to tell people what they have heard for 30 years — that you can't have a man and a career. We'll have to do something braver, since men are going to have to be braver in the future," Olsansky says. His musical couple could just as easily be working in an insurance company where one gets promotion above the other.

Still the musical scene is so minutely observed that an audience could be forgiven for thinking that Olsansky was once himself a blundered child prodigy. In fact he says he can only play the usual nine chords on a folk guitar — he wrote a vicious and folk-singing satirical novel in the Sixties — and he had no musical talent at all. "I'd rather be a hangnail on Oscar Peterson's finger than win the Nobel Prize for literature. As a novelist I envy the composer. He can choose to write a string quartet or an oratorio and automatically he knows the rules. If you are a novelist in a string quartet scene and you get oratorio impulses you don't know what to do."

Olsansky only chose one piece of music for the film, Prokofiev's third piano concerto. His favourite periods had always been baroque, medieval and French Impressionist and he knew very little about the

romantic repertoire in *The Competition*, which was chosen by the musical director, Lalo Schiffrin.

When he made his television show called *The Law* bona fide lawyers used to ask where he got his legal training. When he saw the television coverage of the Van Cliburn piano competition in Fort Worth recently he says he saw nothing in three hours that he had left out of his film.

The authenticity is helped by the way there are none of the usual shots over the back of the grand piano although the music is dubbed. Amy Irving and Richard Dreyfus practised four hours a day to get their fingering right. Before he started the film Dreyfus had never been to a concert

Closing the books on the Holocaust

Bonn
As the last big Nazi extermination camp trial ended yesterday, the question arose: has full justice—if there can be any earthly justice for such appalling crimes—been done for the Holocaust?

With the verdict of life imprisonment on Hermine Ryan and sentences on seven other SS guards in the Majdanek trial, an era is drawing to a close. The trial in Kiel of Herr Kurt Asche, a former SS officer for deporting some 26,000 Jews from Belgium to Auschwitz, is also nearing its end. Some minor trials are still running, others may yet begin, but with only slim chances of ending with convictions.

For four decades after the Holocaust the lifespan of persecutors and persecuted is running out. Many are now dead, others too old or frail to be tried or give evidence, memories are fading, proof is increasingly difficult to find. Before long the last files will have to be closed, the Holocaust and its aftermath will pass into history.

On the one side, in the scales of justice, is the massacre of some six million Jews, and the murders of countless thousands of gypsies, political opponents, Polish intellectuals, mental defectives, Soviet prisoners of war.

On the other there are the convictions, in West Germany, of some 6,500 people, out of 87,300 formally investigated or sent for trial. Another 2,250 are still in progress.

In Austria some 13,600 people have been convicted. Allied courts, in the years immediately after the war, sentenced 4,000, mainly the principal figures. In East Germany, under Soviet supervision, some 14,000 have been convicted. In the Soviet Union 14,000, in Poland 5,000. According to West German estimates altogether some 70,000 people have been brought to trial.

The exact number of Nazi officials—the "armchair



Hermine Ryan, 61, bows her head after receiving a life sentence at Düsseldorf yesterday for her role at Majdanek. She was known as "the Mare" by inmates for the brutal kicks she gave prisoners lining up for the gas chamber.

murderers"—SS men, police, camp guards and soldiers involved in the crimes is not known. Estimates have put it anywhere between 100,000 and 200,000.

West Germany has paid Dm26,500m (£5,000m) in reparations to Israel and to individual Jews and will pay another Dm10,000m (about £2,000m) before the end of the century, though both givers and receivers know that money can never compensate for murdered families, appalling sufferings, wrecked lives, scarred bodies and minds. East Germany has paid no compensation.

On the face of it West Germany's record in bringing the criminals to justice does not look too good and there has been much criticism, particularly from

abroad. Prosecutions started late and proceeded too slowly. There are several reasons: partly it was the fault, in part, of the Allies, partly it was because of objective difficulties in gathering evidence and ensuring fair trials. But partly it is also because the Germans, like all other human beings, have not been able to see their own crimes, or those of their own kind, as sharply as everyone else.

The Majdanek trial has illustrated all the problems involved. The nine accused are only a tiny fraction of the 3,500 people who worked at the camp. They might rightly feel it unjust that they alone should have to answer for about 200,000—maybe even a million—who died there. But as so often

has happened the others are either dead, unfit to stand trial, have been convicted in other courts, have fled to the safety of South American countries, have committed suicide, are living under false names or are simply untraceable.

It has shown up the difficulties in obtaining sufficient proof to be able to convict. The court knows perfectly what happened in Majdanek, but 40 years after the event eyewitnesses cannot remember exactly how, where and when, for instance, a particular atrocity took place, or even who was involved.

Many witnesses have suppressed their memories, others confused them with the experiences of fellow-inmates, many contradict themselves and each other,

some, overcome, at the sight of their former tormentors and the horror of their recollections, have collapsed under the strain.

The trial, like others of its kind, has not greatly moved the German public, although the screening of the film *Holocaust* aroused an interest which had previously been lacking. Dr Adalbert Rückerl, head of the Central Office for the Prosecution of Nazi Crimes, traces the attitude back to the way the Allies conducted the Nuremberg trials against the main Nazi leaders.

The Allies called them war crimes trials, although in fact they involved not only war crimes but also political crimes and sheer, common bestial crimes against humanity. To the Germans of the day the Nuremberg trials were the revenge of the victors and the feeling remained that Nazi crimes trials were somehow conducted against the German people. Crimes against the Jews, he says, have remained subconscious, confused in German minds with war crimes and therefore been subconsciously rated less serious.

In his report on the state of prosecutions (Ed Die Strafverfolgung von NS Verbrechen 1945-1978, C. F. Müller Juristischer Verlag Heidelberg, Karlsruhe 1979) Dr Rückerl adds that the clumsy and arbitrary denazification proceedings, when big criminals sometimes went unnoticed and unwilling collaborators were punished, did not help matters.

Then the Allies reinstated many former Nazis in public offices, many war criminals. By the time the main task of prosecuting war criminals passed to the West Germans in 1950 they had the impression that the job had been done and since the Allies had been so lenient there was no particular reason for them to be over-zealous.

Magistrates confronted with such cases often lacked the knowledge or experience to obtain the necessary evidence. Moreover, Herr Rückerl adds, they often had difficulty in believing that

such appalling accusations could be true.

Progress was sluggish until in 1956 the chance unmasking of an SS officer involved in mass shootings of Jews in Eastern Europe woke up West Germans to the truth that many atrocious Nazi crimes were still unknown and unpunished. The 11 Land justice ministers set up the central office and the systematic work of research and prosecution began.

Maltreatment, unlawful imprisonment, plundering and similar crimes fell under the statute of limitations in 1955, manslaughter and ill-treatment which led to death were no longer punishable after 1963. Then the central office came under time pressure: new material was becoming available in Eastern Europe yet the deadline for prosecuting murder expired on May 8, 1965.

Nazi murderers could only be punished if proceedings were started before that date. So, in order to catch as many as possible, the central office formally opened proceedings against all the people who could reasonably have been present in the crimes, even though their actual involvement had not been established. This device largely explains the huge discrepancy between the number of investigations or trials and the number of convictions.

As it happened, the deadline for prosecutions was postponed until 1969, then until 1979 and then abolished completely.

Fresh evidence is still coming in to the central office in Ludwigsburg but the flow has dwindled to a trickle. The main crimes—the extermination and concentration camps, the mass shootings—have been investigated and the main culprits identified, if not brought to justice.

The new evidence usually involves episodes involving only small numbers of murderers and victims. For this reason, on top of all the others, the chance of justice being done now is extremely remote.

Patricia Clough

The piquant choice facing Mr Prior

Under heavy pressure from his right, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, is preparing to don the mantle of reluctant legislator. It is now certain that he will introduce further—but limited—curbs on trade union power in the next session of Parliament. The question now arises: how far will he go? While the TUC continues to sulk about the brief time (six months) allowed for representations on the Government's Green Paper on trade union immunities, various employers' and business groups have been putting in their bids for a fresh legal restraints on organized labour.

They range from the fantastic from the Chambers of Commerce (union-only labour contracts should be a criminal offence) to the timid (do nothing from the Industrial Society) and present Mr Prior with a satisfying array of options that will permit him to do pretty well what he likes.

It should be remembered that the Green Paper itself was a device to prevent the Government from being rushed into doing too much too quickly. It was attached to the initial exercise in labour law reform, which produced the 1980 Employment Act, to placate the militant right wingers inside the House and outside who wanted the Cabinet to go broke first time, on the model of the 1971 Industrial Relations Act.

The discussion document device stemmed the tide, but only for a time, and Mr Prior's advisers are aware that he has to "do something".

The well-publicized cases of Miss Joanna Harris, the Sandwell poultry inspector dismissed for refusing to join Nalco and the Walsall dinner ladies who find NUPE equally offensive, have handed the Minister a ready-made argument to hoist the level of damages awarded to those who lose jobs through the enforcement of the closed shop, and this he is expected to do.

But there are divisions amongst employers about how far he should go on this issue. The CBI argues that the Government must "as a matter of urgency" initiate further steps towards the elimination of the closed shop, whereas the engineering employers—36 per cent of whose employees are obliged to belong to an appropriate union—call for "no significant change" while the 1980 Act is on trial.

The CBI says that its internal consultation exercise produced widespread opposition to the closed shop, but apart from the well-known examples quoted above it is hard put to offer recent cases of abuse. The best they could offer at a recent briefing was a hint that the shipping employers are unhappy about the closed shop deal with the National Union of Seamen following their recent dispute. It looks very much as though this is a human rights issue rather than an industrial issue, though none the less potent for that.

Engineering employers and the CBI are on common ground when it comes to opposing union-only labour contracts. This complaint has surfaced with increasing frequency in public (usually local authority) contracts requiring firms applying for tenders to employ only unionized labour are comparatively rare. It is explained that "gentlemen's agreements" on this score are more common, and these will be suppressed with difficulty.

However, it is a safe bet that Mr Prior is ready to legislate on both these fronts, and the exact form of his next Bill will be determined after a further round of consultation with the main protagonists, this time face-to-face. The Employment Secretary wants to form a view about the fundamental priorities underlying some of the more obscure details of fancy in the written evidence.

What is much less certain at this stage is his attitude to some very astute proposals from the Engineering Employers' Federation. The 6,000 firms belonging

to the EEF want Government action against the increasingly sophisticated selective strike weapon wielded by the unions. As industry becomes more reliant upon a few highly-trained technologists in charge of computers and similarly-vulnerable equipment, so grows the power of a few to disrupt the many.

To combat this selective stoppage strategy—used increasingly in the civil service dispute—manufacturing employers argue that firms should be able to retaliate against localized strikes in one key area of the workforce by laying off other employees, whether or not their work is affected.

Similar powers are being sought in respect of any general paralysis of the economy caused by strikes among miners, dockers, lorry drivers and the like. Engineering firms would also like to be able to decide who to take back in such circumstances, and such a facility would prompt greater anxieties among shop stewards already under attack from the successful sacking of BL convenor Derek Robinson.

The EEF further argues that while curbs on union immunities may be necessary, these are not the most urgent reforms required nor likely to be the most effective. Engineering employers are rooted in the practical and competitive world of manufacturing industry. They are keen to turn Mr Prior's attention away from such seductive proposals as making collective agreements legally enforceable and withdrawing immunity where strikes are called in breach of disputes procedure agreements. Such measures would be more disadvantageous than beneficial to employers in negotiating agreements in the first place, the employers argue.

Effectively, the EEF is seeking to direct the Employment Secretary towards an industrial option rather than a political option. They think he should hit the unions' basic ability to mount effective industrial action rather than the superficially more attractive target of the closed shop.

Mr Prior's dilemma is that clobbering the closed shop will satisfy many of the political critics of his "witness" under union law, but it would have minimal impact on the way industry wins orders and makes profits.

Even the acting TGWU leader Mr Alex Kison has some embarrassing public misgivings about the closed shop, and the fact that the closed shop is a union issue rather than an industrial issue, though none the less potent for that. Engineering employers and the CBI are on common ground when it comes to opposing union-only labour contracts. This complaint has surfaced with increasing frequency in public (usually local authority) contracts requiring firms applying for tenders to employ only unionized labour are comparatively rare. It is explained that "gentlemen's agreements" on this score are more common, and these will be suppressed with difficulty.

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Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Henry Fairlie

Who will leap through the curtain in Mr Reagan's Supreme Court?

legal barriers to racial equality one by one, the Conservatives detested it. They called for the impeachment of the Chief Justice. Using all his skills as a pundit, Mr Johnson held back. After Bill, which might otherwise have been passed, proposing to alter the court's composition and its powers.

But in the past few years, largely as a result of the appointments made to the Bench by President Nixon, the court has been more conservative. Since no justices resigned while he was in office, President Carter had no chance to make any liberal appointments, but it seems quite likely that President Reagan will, during even his first term, have the chance to make as many as four appointments.

Justice Potter Stewart announced his retirement two weeks ago. Conservatives are buzzing with excitement; Liberals are filled with foreboding. Justice Stewart has been a key figure on the court because he has often cast the swing vote which has given the majority either to the conservative or the liberal position. If he is replaced by an ideological conservative, the court's character will be changed. Justice Stewart is only 66. Five other Justices are over 70. It is true that the attitude of



Justice Potter Stewart: opening the way for Reagan appointments.

most of them is like that of Justice Thurgood Marshall, aged 72, who says: "I'm serving out my term. And it's a life term." But some may weaken or even die in the next four years. It would then not be only the replacement of Justice Stewart which might move the court to what the *New York Times* called a "facing distance" from "the mainstream of social thought".

Mr Reagan said during his campaign that he would look for jurists who share his general philosophy, while rejecting the pledge in the Republican platform to appoint judges who will vote "right" on family matters. Nominations to the vacancy of the court will be examined closely to see exactly how he trends the line between the first (acceptable) and second (unacceptable) positions.

It was characteristic of Justice Stewart that, having dissented from many of the court's rulings in the 1960s on political equality and criminal law, he nonetheless held later that these decisions ought not to be reversed just because the court's membership had changed, because its own precedents deserved more respect. It was also typical that he could say in a fair holding decision:

"At the very least, the freedom that Congress is empowered to secure under the 13th Amendment includes the freedom to buy what every white man can buy, the right to live wherever a white man can live. If Congress cannot say that being a free man means this much, then the Amendment's promise that the nation cannot keep" it is precisely that voice, from a

judge inclined to be conservative, which many fear may now be lost.

But the emergence of a clear conservative majority on the Supreme Court might have one good, if unintentional, influence. There are now 20 Bills before Congress, introduced by conservatives, designed to limit the court's powers. They are intended to exclude such issues as the legality of abortion, the reading of prayers in school, and the busing of schoolchildren, from the jurisdiction of the court.

This could be the most extended Congressional assault on the Supreme Court since the 1950s, and there is now no Lyndon Johnson in authority to stem it by Parliamentary ruses. As representative Robert W. Kastenmeier of the House Judiciary Committee has said, these Bills would make members of Congress "the sole judge of what the constitution is". That is not what was intended by those who wrote it.

It is true that the words of the constitution on this matter are not at all clear, and their meaning has never been argued and fully tested in the Supreme Court. But the meaning of the constitution is not to be found only in its words, but in the intentions of the Founding Fathers as these are revealed both in their de-

bates at the time, and in the Federalist papers of Hamilton and Madison and Jay.

These make it clear that it was never the purpose to give to Congress the constitutional supremacy which is now being claimed for it. But no less does the whole experience of the country argue against it. The balance of the constitution, held so delicately between its three branches, would be disastrously upset. The constitution, itself would become subject to the whims of Congressional and public opinion from year to year.

Only a handful of the court's most recent decisions show how far its necessary jurisdiction reaches. It has ruled that individual states are free to permit the televising of criminal trials. It has said that Federal "Bill of Rights" for the retarded is only advisory and does not obligate the States to fulfill it. It has said that the Federal Government must protect the health and safety of workers in private industry.

The last of these is a challenge to President Reagan's attempt to dismantle the Federal regulation of industry, and is therefore disliked by conservatives. But equally the court has just ruled that the closing of a street in a white area which forces blacks to make a detour round it is constitutional, and this is liked by conservatives. So it leans this way and that in its complex task.

At least it did, while Justice Stewart was there. This is the worry caused by his retirement, and why the news of who will replace him is awaited with anxiety. Long after President Reagan has gone, after all, the Justices whom he appoints will still be there.

Breaking down the Pall Mall sex barrier

A poet and, as they describe themselves, "two large, bossy females" from the Social Democratic Party are among the first nine women to be proposed as members for the Reform Club in Pall Mall. The club voted to admit women at the end of April after prolonged discussion and threats of large-scale resignations from the club's old guard.

To judge by the number of males who have signed the candidates' book in support of them, they are not short of friends in the beautiful building designed by Sir Charles Barry, the man who built the Houses of Parliament.

The nine include Wendy Perriam, poet and novelist; Ethel Wix, Commissioner of Income Tax; Lesley Bygrave, public-relations director and vice-president international of Bursan Marsteller; and Celia Goodhart and Ruth Levy, regional organizers for the Social Democrats at their Queen Anne Street headquarters in Westminster. The Secretary General of the Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society is also on the list.

Oliver Stutchbury, the former GLC Labour alderman and "supporter of lost causes" seems to have been particularly assiduous in searching out lady members; he is the proposer for both Ruth Levy and Celia Goodhart, who wins the

distinction of having the first female name in the Reform's candidates' book.

None of the women I spoke to yesterday was a member of any other London club. "I am not a clubby person," said Ruth Levy. "I'm 45 and I rather thought of my grandchildren and how it might affect their lives. It's a bit like Everest; I did it because it's there."

Lesley Bygrave, 33, was proposed by John Whitehorn, brother of Katharine. Ms Bygrave said she was not worried about any adverse reaction from the old guard. "I was there for lunch the other day, and everyone was very pleasant," she said. "Of course, I shall take friends there, but I intend to use the club for business, as well. The club has a lovely atmosphere. I don't think it will change much now with women members. Women should be pleased that they have been admitted. But it would be a bit of a cheek if we immediately changed things."

Each woman has to be interviewed by the club's committee before an election can take place, but no difficulties are likely.

Bargain basement

The *New Statesman*, whose fortunes seem to have revived recently (it is now trading almost at break-even, after losses amounting to £300,000 over the past three years), has had a stroke of luck. Rummaging around in its basement recently, a young member of the staff unearthed 32 prints of sketches by master car-

THE TIMES DIARY



The rich baritone voice of Dr John Howard, secretary of the British Medical Association, is rarely heard at the labyrinthine proceedings of the "doctors' parliament" in Brighton where the BMA holds its annual representative meetings. But on July 29 the good doctor will abandon his bedside motto voice diffidence to sing at the royal wedding as a member of the Bach Choir, of which Prince Charles is patron.

Howard, 57, who numbers among toonist, David Low, completed between 1926 and 1933. The NS now plans to publish four of these—Lloyd George, Albert Einstein, Lord Keynes and H. G. Wells—in the magazine in the autumn. The originals, about 9,000, will be available for a few pounds each. They include Churchill, Augustus John, Marie Stopes and Ramsay MacDonald.

Sharif's style

Omar Sharif, the well-known Egyptian bridge player, has dropped into London for a rest before flying to the Seychelles for the arduous task of making a television documentary about the island.

his achievements a barrister's qualification, an international career and the fact that he has lived down a reputation for being too clever by half, says that choral singing is now his only hobby. Every Monday he is out rehearsing with choir with which Prince Charles sings from time to time. The Prince, Howard says, has an equally fine baritone voice and would cruise through the three-yearly test that members have to take.

The mutual admiration is just as well because next year the Prince will become the BMA's President in its 150th year.

Britain, he flew in from Paris on Monday to visit friends, take in a show and watch Wimbledon (on television in the Inn on the Park). Sharif, 49, leaves today for the Seychelles, where he will spend a fortnight in front of the cameras as guide and commentator on the film exploring the history, culture, geology and topography of the islands. It will be his first working assignment since he finished *Green Ice* with Ryan O'Neal almost a year ago. Sharif, who works only when he needs the money, spends most of his time living in France where he indulges his interest in horse-racing and gambling. He owns a stud farm and his small racing



stable at Chantilly has seven or eight thoroughbreds.

He is looking forward to whiling away the summer in Deauville playing in the bridge festival before getting stuck into the racing season and gambling at the casino. There are, apparently, no romantic entanglements on the horizon. Sharif says he is happy with his present bachelor life and keen to "live a normal life". Quite.

Hockney ablaze

David Hockney appeared even more relaxed and colourful than usual last night. At the private view for his exhibition, *The Artist's Eye*, at the National Gallery, he outshone even the girl with four-tones hair and an emerald green bow tie who was in a pierrot design and his shoes were green, brown, yellow and red.

Just back from his trip to China with Stephen Spender, he told me he had taken 2,500 photographs and had some marvellous material for a book (Spender will edit his journal to accompany Hockney's paintings and drawings based on the photos). His search for the Bradford of China had failed, he said, but he had managed to track down his favourite contemporary Chinese artist, a man called Teng, in the mountainous Kuei-Lin area. To begin with, the Chinese painter was him some crayons he wasn't using, the old man grasped his hand in gratitude and immediately drew two beautiful cats which Hockney with him.

Coincidentally

Mr Robert Rhodes James, Conservative MP for Cambridge, noted a remarkable coincidence yesterday. On the day that Mr Whitelaw, Home Secretary, announced that the remains of General Wladyslaw Sikorski, the Polish wartime leader, would not be returned to Poland, Mr Rhodes James was showing some visitors the Roll of Honour at the Commons in which

the names of all MPs who died in the last war are recorded in decorative script.

A page is turned over every day. At the top of yesterday's entry was the name: "Lieut. Col. Victor Alexander Cazalet, Royal Artillery," who was MP for Chippenham. He died in the same aircraft as General Sikorski near Gibraltar on July 4, 1943, and was the liaison officer between the British Government and the Free Polish regime at that time.

A further coincidence: Mr Rhodes James is the author of the biography of Victor Cazalet.

Pacific memories

Vitus Bering, the explorer who gave his name to the narrow stretch of water dividing the Soviet Union and America, was born 300 years ago this month, and in Moscow and Copenhagen they are setting ready to celebrate the anniversary of his Danish seafarer enrolled by Peter the Great as an officer in the Russian Navy.

An enormous Russian sailing ship is setting sail for Denmark with a crew of students to take part in the festivities. Its billowing sails cover more than 4,000 square yards, and the ship can skim over the water at 17 knots.

An island off the far-east coast of the USSR, named after Bering, has been turned into an open-air museum. Bering was shipwrecked and died there in 1741, after his discovery of the Pacific coast of America.

Peter Watson

Business News

THE TIMES July 1 1981

Skelmersdale's cooperative venture, page 19

Plant hirers get their sums wrong, page 19

- Stock markets**
FT Index 544.8, up 0.9
FT Gilts 66.04, down 0.12
- Sterling**
\$ 1.9305, down 115 points
Index 94.1, down 0.1
- Dollar**
Index 109.0, up 0.2
DM 2.3945, up 63 pts
- Gold**
\$427, down \$2.50
- Money**
3 mth sterling 121-124
3 mth Euro \$ 174-171
6 mth Euro \$ 174-172

IN BRIEF

Food canner saved from receivers

Lockwood Foods, the Lincolnshire-based fruit and vegetable canners and the third largest canning operation in the country, has been rescued from receivership.

The main part of the group's business, which collapsed in March, has been bought by Hilldown Holdings, which announced yesterday that it had purchased Lockwood's factories at Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, and Forfar in Angus.

Normal trading will start immediately and Hilldown aims to remain as an independent food manufacturer. It hopes to employ 700 people.

In March, Lockwood's bank, National Westminster, appointed Sir Kenneth Cork and Mr Paul Shewell, of Cork Gully, as joint receivers of Lockwood Foods and Lockwood Canners, the two main companies. The group lost £3.2m last year.

ICL notices staying

The ICL management has refused to lift the 90-day redundancy notices issued to about 5,000 of its 31,000 staff because the cuts "cannot" be achieved on a purely voluntary basis.

Imports drop likely

Japanese penetration of a reduced United Kingdom car market is expected to fall this year, according to Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Minister of Trade. The Japanese share had increased to 11.9 per cent in 1980 from between 9 and 11 per cent up to the end of 1979.

New Burmah division

Burmah Oil has formed a special chemicals division to develop its interests in areas including sealants, adhesives, waxes, agricultural chemicals and metal surface treatment products. Mr Jonathan Fry, former group planning director, will be the new division's chief executive.

Workers buy plant

Thirty of the 60 workers employed by the recession-hit Lawrence Bros., Millwall engineering group of Malby, Yorkshire, will put £40,000 of their redundancy payments towards buying the company and running it as a worker-owned business. The balance, £60,000, is being provided by South Yorkshire County Council as a bridging loan.

British Aerospace deal

The British Aerospace Dynamics Group has signed a multi-million pound production contract to supply the Royal Navy with the SeaSkua light-weight anti-ship missiles.

Homes prices 'low'

Houses are now relatively cheap and well below the accepted ratio of 3.5 times average income, but prices will start rising towards the year-end, according to Mr Chris Hewick, chief value of the Leicester Building Society.

Improved smelter

The £35m refurbishment of British Aluminium's Lochaber smelter at Fort William in the west Highlands is nearly finished. The new-style plant will be among the most efficient in the world and is expected to increase production by 33 per cent from the same basic power input.

Motorway contract

An £11.8m contract for the construction of an 8-kilometre section of M54 at Shifnal, Shropshire, has been awarded to A. Monk and Company of Warrington.

De Lorean royalty

De Lorean car company paid Britain £200,000 yesterday as the first instalment of its quarterly royalties due under the Government's aid scheme.

West rebels at high price of African oil

By Edward Townsend

Leading oil companies have begun to cut their purchases of Nigerian crude by as much as 50 per cent as part of a growing rebellion against high African prices.

Many of the quarterly supply contracts for oil from Nigeria, Algeria, Libya and Gabon are due for renewal from today and buyers will be seeking significant reductions from the official African price of \$40 a barrel. So far, however, the Africans have resisted pressure from other Opec members to bring prices closer to the Saudi Arabian level of \$35 a barrel.

One leading oil trader in London said yesterday: "The Africans could be getting a rush of telexes in the next few days threatening to terminate supply contracts. How many of the buyers pull out remains to be seen but I expect at least 75 per cent to take a very strong stand."

It is believed that as many as 25 out of an estimated total of 51 buyers of Nigerian oil may terminate their contracts if the price is not cut. Since the start of the year, Nigerian oil production has been cut from 2.1m barrels a day to a current level of about one million.

The decisions now being taken by the oil companies over African crude mark the start of a new phase in complex international poker game. Earlier this month, the British National Oil Corporation broke with tradition and, in the face of increasing hostility from oil companies, agreed to link its pricing structure to Saudi Arabian oil rather than the African crudes. This resulted in the reference price of crude from the Forthies Field in the North Sea being cut by \$4.25 to \$35 a barrel.

Most of the companies with big downstream refining operations, such as Shell, Mobil and BP, claim to be making losses on these activities even at the reduced oil price levels.

Against this background, Mr Rene Ortiz, retiring secretary-general of Opec, forecast yesterday that the huge world oil glut, which has forced down prices and production, should ease by September when increased economic activity in Western countries gives a boost to demand.

His comments contrast sharply with the views of Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian oil minister, who has said that the Saudi-engineered glut would last well into next year.

BNOC's decision to link prices with those of Saudi Arabia was confirmed yesterday by Mr Philip Shelbourne, the chairman. He said that the corporation, which markets about 60 per cent of North Sea crude, would maintain its \$3 a barrel premium, and he hoped that Opec's pricing policy would result in "an appropriate regrouping" around \$34 a barrel.

Meanwhile, the Africans appear ready to continue to cut production rather than lower prices. Libyan production has fallen to 1.1 million barrels a day from 1.6 million in March. In the case of Nigeria, the loss of expected revenue is not thought to be large. The Nigerian government is also said to be prepared to forego any interest that would accrue from the greater revenues that would come from increased output induced by price cuts. It is happier to leave the oil in the ground, in the hope of later sales at restored prices.

Indonesia hopes to be producing about 11 million barrels of oil a day by the end of the current five-year plan in 1984.

Vauxhall's losses hit £83m

By Rupert Morris

Vauxhall Motors reported a net loss of £83.3m yesterday on its 1980 operations—a dramatic decline from the previous year, when losses were £31.3m.

World recession and under-utilisation of facilities were the main reasons for the figures, according to Mr Ferdinand Beickler, chairman and managing director. These, and other factors, more than offset improvements in operating performance, he said.

Earlier this year, Mr James McDonald, president of General Motors, Vauxhall's American parent company, discounted speculations about Vauxhall's future and pointed out that GM put £105m into the British company in 1980 to cover losses. "If we were going to back out of the United Kingdom, that was the time to do so."

But yesterday's figures make depressing reading. Sales were down from 230,420 to 195,145, and the operating loss went up from £16.1m to £57.1m.

But while the figures point to the sad state of the British motor industry, Mr Beickler was optimistic.

He said 1980 was a year of major reorganisation, in which labour relations had improved, Vauxhall's United Kingdom market share had improved from 6.5 per cent to 7.2 per cent, and the company would emerge from the recession stronger and in a better competitive position.

So far this year, the company has reduced its workforce from 29,000 to about 23,000. Mr Beickler said: "Although the year started with a comparatively buoyant demand for the company's products, we were unable to meet this fully, due notably to lack of commercial vehicle availability caused by the national steel strike in the early months of 1980."

From the second quarter, there was a major, and sustained, downturn in the vehicle markets, giving rise to even more intensive competition. Trading conditions were particularly difficult overseas due to the increasing strength of sterling.

Vauxhall invested £31.8m in plant improvements last year, notably for producing the new J car at Luton.

Mainly British parts for BL-Japanese car

BL's joint venture car, the Triumph Acclaim, built under licence from Japan's Honda company, will be 70 per cent British in content.

That content could have been higher from the start if British component companies had been able to meet BL's targets for costs and delivery times.

The Acclaim is now being produced at BL's plant at Cowley, Oxford, ready for its launch on October 7.

Mr Andy Barr, manufacturing director, said yesterday that he expected that within two years the British contents of the car would rise to 80 per cent.

It is understood to be a four-door family saloon, powered by a 1335 cc single overhead camshaft engine; have front-wheel drive; and a five-speed gear box.

Canadian group issues £25m stock

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Inco, the Canadian metals company and the world's largest nickel producer, is issuing £25m nominal of 154 per cent unsecured loan stock 2005. It is being placed in the United Kingdom domestic market.

The issue, underwritten by bankers Morgan Grenfell, with Cazenove & Co and Kitcat & Aldrich as brokers, is the first big unsecured loan stock to be launched by a commercial borrower in this country for nearly 10 years.

It is also the first sterling loan stock to be issued with the option of repayment in American dollars. Holders will be able to receive payment either in sterling or in dollars.

The issue price is 198½, and Morgan Grenfell said last night that the placing had been completed satisfactorily. Application has been made for the stock to be dealt on the Stock Exchange and dealings are expected to start on July 2.

However, there is a technical problem over whether the stock should be traded on the floor of the exchange or be treated as an interest stock or be treated as a Eurosterling issue because it will be represented by bearer bonds.

The Stock Exchange is expected to decide on the matter today. The stock is being issued partly paid, with £25 payable on acceptance and the balance payable not later than November 12.

Financial Editor, page 19



New head named for Takeover Panel

The Bank of England yesterday named Mr John Hignett, head of the corporate finance department at merchant bankers Lazard Brothers, as the new director-general of the Takeover Panel.

Mr Hignett, aged 47, was a chartered accountant with Deloitte & Co before joining Lazard in 1963. He became a director 10 years ago and head of corporate finance last year. He was educated at Harrow and Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he won a boxing blue in 1955 and captain the following year.

He takes up his appointment on August 1, replacing Mr Graham Walsh who returns to Morgan Grenfell today as head of their corporate finance department after two years.



Mr Clausen takes over at World Bank

Major changes lie ahead at the World Bank with the retirement today of its president, Mr Robert McNamara, a former United States Secretary of defence.

Mr McNamara, 65, who has run the world's largest multilateral aid organisation for 13 years, hands over to a fellow Californian, Mr Alden Wainwright Clausen, former president of the Bank of America. They are pictured at the World Bank's Washington headquarters yesterday when Mr McNamara, displayed a heavily bandaged wrist which he broke playing tennis.

The McNamara era at the bank has seen tremendous growth and development, with a final triumph, the entry of China to membership.

Mr Clausen faces a tough challenge, taking office when the developing nations confront a \$400,000m debt mountain and a massive array of poverty, hunger and population difficulties.

Under the dynamic, non-stop leadership of Mr McNamara, lending increased twelvefold and ranged into new project areas from energy to tourism.

He secured large official funding for the bank, but today's budget constraints everywhere will force Mr Clausen to develop ways of stimulating a much greater flow of private investment to developing nations instead of relying on big increases in aid from the industrial powers.

Buy-out offer as crane hire group collapses

By Rosemary Unsworth

Richards & Wallington, Britain's largest crane hire group, has asked its bankers to appoint a receiver. The collapse comes just two months after a consortium of 24 banks agreed to support the group which owed a total of more than £26m.

It had reported losses of £5.4m for 1980 against a profit of £2.4m the previous year.

The directors said yesterday that proposals for continued support had been rejected, so there had been no alternative but to request a receiver.

Within hours of the announcement, preceded by suspension of the share price at 20p, six managers at Reccord Tower Cranes, a member of the group, made a buy-out offer.

The company, based in Middlesbrough, made £450,000 profit last year but the managers refused to say how much they had offered. They added that funds for the purchase were available and that they had been negotiating a buy-out since the financial rescue in April.

At the time of the rescue Mr

Geoffrey Parsons, former chief executive of John Laing, was appointed chairman and chief executive, replacing the founder of the business, Mr Roy Richardson, who retired.

There was some surprise yesterday in the City that the banks, led by the Midland, had not given Mr Parsons any more time to stem the group's losses.

A Midland Bank spokesman said last night that discussions between Richards & Wallington and the banks were continuing. The banks stepped in when borrowings rose to £26.1m and shareholders' funds had fallen from £20.6m to £12.9m because of losses of £7.37m after tax and extraordinary items. The level of borrowings, at more than twice shareholders' funds, could have resulted in the group breaching its articles of association.

The group's largest shareholder is British Electric Traction, which holds 25.6 per cent of the shares and also runs a plant hire company. Observers felt yesterday that recovery was unlikely to be able to provide much for the shareholders after the banks had been paid.

Final day for Berisford £201m bid

By Michael Price

S & W Berisford's £201m bid for British Sugar enters its final day today with the commodity trader still some 2 per cent short of the 42.5 per cent it needs to acquire British Sugar.

Last night, after a small number of acceptances had been received during the day, Berisford's holding was 39.6 per cent. Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank advising British Sugar, holds slightly over 4 per cent, while institutions and private investors have 23 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

British Sugar's shares were steady at 340p, where they stood 5p above the Berisford cash offer. Berisford's shares fell 1p to 131p. City sources believe that the number of institutions wanting more Berisford shares is small.

Schroder Wagg has spent £7m buying British Sugar shares for its own account. Mr Francis Cator, the bank's vice-chairman, and a director of British Sugar said: "We take the view that the shares are undervalued and will go up above the present price."

£17.5m bid for oil investors

By Richard Allen

London Merchant Securities, the property-to-oil group headed by Lord Brown, launched a surprise £17.5m cash bid yesterday for Cambridge Petroleum Royalties, one of the new breed of companies set up to invest in oil exploration.

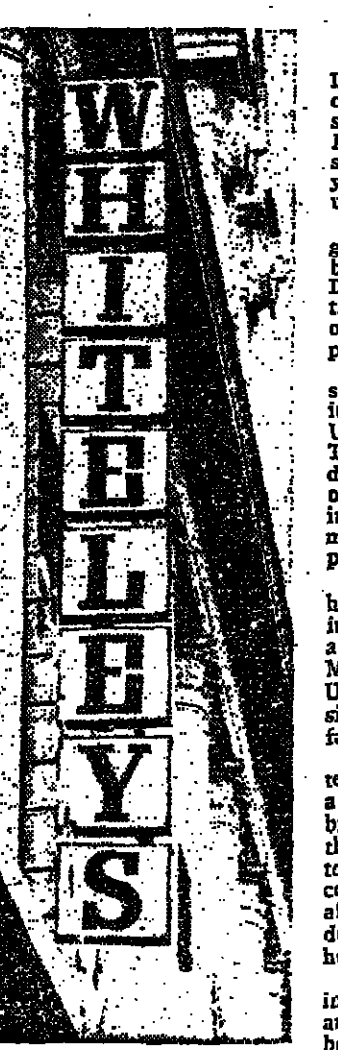
The stock is being issued partly paid, with £25 payable on acceptance and the balance payable not later than November 12.

Cambridge, which will become a publicly-quoted vehicle for its ambitious exploration plans in the North Sea and North America.

Set up with a capital of £4m in 1973, Cambridge is traded under the Stock Exchange's "over-the-counter" 1632d rule. It has declared almost no profits to date but holds potential royalty stakes in a number of exploration ventures worldwide.

After 118 years, Whiteley's is closing its doors A name to set great store by

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor



Whiteley's in Bayswater, London's first department store of which Professor Elton Frynall spoke approvingly in Shaw's Pygmalion, is to close at the summer's end because, 118 years old, it has become uneconomic.

Last chance for customers to go through the Edwardian building's entrance, with its Doric columns, and wander up the marble staircase, a replica of that at La Scala, Milan, will probably be in September.

The decision to close the store in Queenway is that of its owners since 1961, the United Draperies Stores Group. The men's and women's wear department stores and mail order group ironically counts its department stores as its most profitable operation at present.

But Whiteley's sales volumes have drifted down 40 per cent in the past 10 years—there was a £100,000 loss last year—and Mr Robert Lyons, chairman of UDS department stores division, puts it down to two factors.

One is that Whiteley's is, in terms of shopping area, on a limb compared with Knightsbridge or Oxford Street. Once the carriage trade beat a path to its door and Queen Victoria conferred a Royal warrant, after founder William Whiteley decorated Trafalgar Square for her Jubilee.

There is a mix between those in the expensive houses in the area and the inhabitants of bedsitters. "Our customer age

profile' is partly high and partly younger people that are a floating population, a difficult mix—only there had been a strong family trade," Mr Lyons said.

The area lacks a large office population to bring in buoyant lunchtime trade. "We ran a market survey to see how we might improve trade, but the research showed that the various segments of customers were very satisfied."

There are just not enough of them. When you said you have done your job well but that economically it doesn't work out, there is not much else you can do."

But another problem for Whiteley's is also that of West End department stores in general. With suburban shopping centres offering more department store shopping on a par with that in central London, fewer customers now travel into town.

At the peak of its popularity Whiteley's traded on five floors with about 1,500,000 square feet of selling area, but it has for some time traded on only two floors—the rest went over to offices.

Mr Lyons points to Pygmalion and its musical version, *My Fair Lady*, as showing Whiteley's decline in a phrase. Shaw had Professor Higgins say Liza should be got some clothes from Whiteley's. In the musical that was changed from time to time to better known names—such as the Army and Navy.

New figures show US growth is slowing

From Frank Vogel, Washington, June 30

The rate of economic growth in the United States is slowing significantly, and latest figures are encouraging both government and private economists to predict a moderate inflation and lower interest rates.

The Government's composite index of leading economic indicators fell by 1.8 per cent in May after a gain of 0.4 per cent in April.

American economists have been predicting for some months that the growth rate would slow, but today's figures provide the firmest indication so far that a slowdown is in fact taking place.

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, secretary of commerce, pointed out that the forecast does point to a halt in the economic recovery that started last summer, but he added: "We do not expect to see a recession." The composite index is widely viewed as the most available statistical guide to likely developments in the economy. In May, only one of the 10 indicators on the index showed an advance, and that was a small increase in the average working week in manufacturing. Months of consistently tight money policies in the United States, together with a broad slowdown in the economies of most industrial nations, appear to be slowing demand.

The new official figures coincide with a host of new private economic forecasts, all suggesting a slowdown in real growth, and less inflation and lower interest rates. Economists at the Bache brokerage house predicted the fall in the leading indicators accurately, though they added that a full-scale recession was not likely.

Forecasters at the Lionel D. Edie company predicted a 2 per cent rise in the real rate of gross national product for all of this year—in line with Reagan Administration expectations—despite an annual 8.6 per cent growth rate in the first quarter. The new set of predictions by Wharton Economic Forecasting Associates said: "The nation is in for two years of moderate economic growth and the end of double digit inflation."

The Albert Sommers, the influential chief economist of the Conference Board, a private New York research group, stressed in his latest forecast that, even if business conditions did improve with Congressional proposals for a return to the recent record inflation levels. This view has been backed by the "Committee to Fight Inflation", composed of 13 former top officials, including treasury secretaries William Simon, Michael Blumenthal, Henry Fowler, Douglas Dillon and George Shultz. The committee issued a statement saying that "developments during recent months have enhanced the prospect that the rate of inflation may be significantly reduced within a reasonable period."

Norcros Limited

Operating surplus before tax up 17%

JOHN V. SHEFFIELD, CHAIRMAN, REPORTS:

- Overseas sales up 17%
- Capital expenditure up 29%
- Earnings per Ordinary Share up 21%

Financial summary of year to 31st March 1981:

| | 1981 £'000 | 1980 £'000 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| External Sales (including associates) | 329,788 | 300,342 |
| Exports | 39,324 | 35,702 |
| Group pre-tax surplus | 22,364 | 19,179 |
| Earnings per ordinary share | 14.04p | 11.63p |

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 20th July, 1981. Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from: The Company Secretary, Norcros Limited, Reading Bridge House, Reading, Berks, RG1 8PP.



PRICE CHANGES

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Rises | | | |
| Aero & Gen | 20p to 418p | IMP Cont Gas | 8p to 183p |
| Arb-Latham | 15p to 355p | Intcype | 20p to 428p |
| Barclays Bank | 8p to 441p | Lloyds Bank | 12p to 405p |
| Eagle Star | 11p to 313p | Mercantile Hse | 10p to 487p |
| Hammerstein 'A' | 10p to 560p | Sun Alliance | 10p to 504p |
| Falls | | | |
| Alroyd & Smrth | 5p to 148p | Lasmo | 15p to 537p |
| Black & Edg 'us | 6p to 60p | Masey Ferg | 12p to 135p |
| Empire Stores | 6p to 96p | Royal Wares | 7p to 253p |
| Freemans Ltd | 6p to 104p | Solihby Pk | 6p to 467p |
| Harrison Cros | 13p to 812p | Tricentrol | 6p to 252p |

President agrees free trade in shoes

President Ronald Reagan has made a significant move to repair the damage done to his free trade image by the recent deal with Japan to limit car imports to America. Mr Reagan has decided to abandon American import restrictions on shoes from Asia.

The decision, which runs counter to the advice of the government's International Trade Commission, opens the way for unlimited shoe imports to the United States from Taiwan and South Korea. The American shoe industry, which successfully pressured President Carter four years ago to impose import quotas, will be furious.

President Reagan has repeatedly declared his support of free trade, but the claim has had a hollow ring to it since the Administration pressured the Japanese to limit car sales.

\$400m ships order

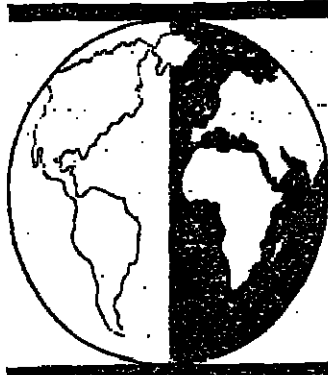
A \$400m contract, described as the largest single contract in shipbuilding history, was signed in Seoul yesterday between the United Arab Shipping Company (UASC) and South Korea's Hyundai corporation for the construction of nine 35,000 dwt class container carriers.

Laker routes

A heated battle for trans-Pacific air routes ended yesterday when the Hongkong air licensing authority granted Cathay Pacific Airways rights to operate a daily service to the United States and Canada via Tokyo. But Britain's Laker Airways won a partial victory in also being granted the route. The approval gives Laker the around-the-world service it has sought.

Liquefaction plant

Nippon Oil has reached agreement with Chevron Research a subsidiary of Standard Oil of California, to introduce the Chevron coal liquefaction process at an undisclosed cost. Nippon plans to build a pilot



plant in Yokohama, at a cost of 1,200m yen (about £2.7m).

Chemical profits fall

Profit margins in the West German chemical industry have narrowed from 2.4 per cent in 1979 to two per cent last year, and are expected to continue narrowing. The West German Chemical Industry Federation blames the slump on raw materials and energy costs, which have risen by 20 to 30 per cent in the current year.

French fuel prices up

Electricity tariffs will rise by 15 per cent on average in France from today, the economics ministry announced. The price of gas to domestic users will be increased by 17 per cent.

Cocoa deal

Cocoa trading countries, excluding the European community, have agreed on provisional application of the 1980 International Cocoa Agreement in full from next month. The EEC has reserved the right to notify acceptance before August 1.

Aircraft talks

Officials at Airbus Industrie, France, have confirmed that there have been exploratory contacts with General Dynamics Corporation on the possible participation by the latter in the recently announced A320 project for development of a short-to-medium-range commercial aircraft.

The lessons that Australia has for the US economy

From Frank Vogl, Washington, June 30

While foreign policy was almost certainly the prime topic at President Reagan's meeting today with Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, they probably also discussed how best to curb inflation, secure real economic growth and boost business confidence. In terms of economic philosophy, both leaders have much in common.

President Reagan is just setting out along the conservative economic path that Mr Fraser travelled when he took power in the mid-1970s. The Australians faced 17 per cent inflation, large money supply growth, heavy budget deficits and a sense, among business interests, that national economic management was out of control.

Mr Reagan is jubilant about his latest budget victory. In Congress, but officials at the Office of Management and Budget stress that, in each of the next three years, the President will have to promote additional domestic spending cuts if the federal budget is to be balanced by 1984.

Mr Fraser has no doubt told President Reagan in the White House talks that he has found no alternative to taking regular measures to reduce public spending growth.

Mr Fraser took office determined to reduce the burden of taxation. Some measures along these lines were implemented by the Fraser Government but, in fact, the overall tax burden has increased in Australia in the last few years. This, along with restraint in public spending, has produced the situation now where the Australian community's budget is almost balanced.

President Reagan may discover, too, that the tax burden may rise and contribute to his

budget balancing aim, despite his firm demands to Congress for tax cuts now.

The Fraser Government has also recently taken a tougher line on monetary policy. It has warned trade unions that, if large wage demands continue, then higher unemployment could well follow. Mr Fraser's stand here is likely to encourage President Reagan, who is giving his full backing to tight United States money policies while striving to hold down public sector wage rises.

Both Mr Fraser and President Reagan believe that government should do less regulating of the private sector and that government spending should be at a lower level of gross national product. Mr Fraser took over when commonwealth government spending was about 30 per cent of gross national product. Today it is down to around 27 per cent. Some of his advisers say a desirable objective is about 24 per cent. President Reagan has taken office with federal government spending at 23 per cent of gross national product. He aims to bring this down to 19 per cent by 1984.

Mr Fraser's main point is likely to be the need for consistent policy. Senior officials in Canberra stressed to me on a recent visit that only clear indications over several years of firm government resolve can secure the scale of productive business investment needed to ensure long-term real economic growth.

Today, real business investment spending in Australia is running at a 20 per cent annual growth rate. Business attitudes are positive and confidence in the economy's future growth is widespread. Five years of budget austerity have helped to produce this situation.

Space in the market £42 a square foot

By Philip Robinson

To Let: one small concrete box, just below ground level; all mod cons; walking distance of stock market trading floor; no guarantee of profits; offers around £8,000.

Last week the price would have been £5,600, but in what is being seen as a big review of all stock market charges, the stockbroking firms who keep spaces from which their members deal around the market are paying an increase of between 30 per cent and 49 per cent a year for the convenience.

All 120 boxes on three split levels in Throgmorton Street, London, are occupied, and the exchange does not expect any great rush for the door. But brokers already squeezed between higher costs and quiet business, are saying that the exchange may have to look at its own staffing levels for cuts next time.

Some firms operate more than one box, and one broker estimated that his firm would be paying something like £20,000 a year. The increase makes space in the stock exchange the most expensive in the City. At £42 a square foot, the rent is around £25 a square foot, higher than other companies pay in rent for offices not five minutes walk from the market.

Even after that, the exchange reckons that net revenue from the increases will be nil. A spokesman said: "The increases are likely to just meet the increased costs. The boxes are not run at a profit and are only charged on the people who use them."

The box rent increase is the first in just under two years. But the brokers, still waiting for a review of commission charges which was expected to come this month, argue that pruning of staff in the administration must be reviewed.

Job conditions survey

Less work and more play

By Nicholas Cole



Marks: distinct advantage for white-collar workers.

In terms of working hours and holidays, white-collar workers now have a distinct advantage compared with manual workers.

Many trade unions are still seeking to achieve a working week of under 40 hours for their members, and up to four

weeks' holiday, the survey points out. "For office workers, the 40-hour barrier was breached over a decade ago. Even staff on 35 hours or fewer are no longer the exception," it adds.

Whilst the average working week for an office employee is now 35.8 hours, with most companies operating a 7-7-1-hour day, 52 per cent of companies work their office staff for 35 hours or less a week. A total of 85 per cent of firms now award holidays of four weeks or more, in addition to bank holidays.

Two-thirds of the employers surveyed also give extra time off on top of bank holidays, normally at Christmas and New Year.

Fewer firms—62 per cent—against 88 per cent a year ago—now give watches, clocks or other mementoes to long-serving employees.

This, Mr Marks says, is presumably a direct result of cost-cutting. There is, he adds, considerable insurance among staff about the cost of benefits, which can add as much as 30 per cent to payroll costs.

The volume of employers allowing day release for office staff has fallen 14 per cent, to 60 per cent.

Co-op Bank set to go it alone as Barclays axes card scheme

By Margaret Pagano

Barclays' decision to withdraw from its loss-making in-house credit card service left its largest user, the Co-operative Bank, undaunted yesterday.

The Co-operative—with 100,000 Handycards in issue and about 45,000 Handycards with its shoppers—is ready to launch its own computer system to deal with credit card processing. It has used Barclays for card pro-

cessing since it started the programme in 1979, but funding has been the Co-op's concern. Last year Handycards had a £30m turnover.

Mr David Cavell, Co-op consumer credit manager, said it had always planned its own processing system. It recently bought a FDR computer from the United States and this should be in operation at its computer centre at Skelmersdale, Lancashire, within a few months.

"So this came at an opportune time for us and there will be no inconvenience to customers: the service is profitable and expanding," he said. Barclays credit card division, run by Barclaycard, has been unprofitable since it started three years ago. The 24 retailing chains, which include Bury's, Cecil Gee, Wallis and the Co-operative Bank, issued 90,000 cards but Barclays needed at least 500,000 to make a profit.

A Barclays official said time would be given for retailers to find other methods and claimed there would be no inconvenience to customers.

The 250 jobs at the Kirby computer centre, Liverpool, which dealt with the cards, were not at risk, and would be incorporated into mainstream activities.

One of the more successful in-house schemes is run by Habitat, the furnisher, who have 20,000 card users. Mr John Beer, finance director, said the decision came as a surprise but the group was considering alternative financing. The cards provided a sizeable portion of turnover and would be continued.

Several retailers, however, are believed to have found the scheme unprofitable. The main problem appears to be that customers preferred one main credit card, such as the Barclaycard.

Electricity board's prices challenged

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

A preliminary investigation of the London Electricity Board for possible anti-competitive behaviour is to be made by Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

The issue is the price level at which the board has been selling electrical goods and providing installation and servicing. This side of its activities has been running at a loss and Mr Borrie will be looking at how this fits in with the board's overall financial policies. It also sells electricity and the question is whether profits from that are subsidising other activities.

There have been complaints, notably from the Radio, Electrical and Television Retailers' Association, the trade association for many High Street retailers of electrical goods.

Electricity board prices of domestic appliances have been competitive with those of retailers and the London board recently introduced a cash and carry scheme aimed at matching the prices of discount operators who undercut High Street prices.

But Mr Borrie's investigation will not be a simple one because the board's 57 High Street shops, besides selling goods and channelling service needs, act as advisory centres and accept electricity bill payments.

Last year the shops side of the board's activities had a turnover of £20.2m, on which there was an operating loss of £776,000—smaller than the previous year, when on a £17.8m turnover there was a deficit of £1.2m.

New rules for lorries planned

By Anne Warden

Plans for a national type approval scheme for lorries on British roads, similar to one already existing for cars, are expected to be announced by the Department of Transport this week.

The Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Norman Fowler, has been holding urgent talks with the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and other groups concerned with commercial vehicles. These follow the issue of a consultation document last November.

The scheme would mean that commercial vehicles, with very few exceptions, would have to be of an approved type before they could be registered and used on United Kingdom roads. This would bring the United Kingdom into line with other countries, including other EEC members and Japan.

Prestel plan to aid job seekers

By Bill Johnstone

A novel scheme called Job-Tel, which uses the viewdata system of British Telecom's Prestel, has been devised to help job seekers advertise themselves.

The scheme will allow employers at a touch of a button to list the names and details of potential employees in seconds on specially adapted television sets.

For a fee of £15, the job seeker's personal details will be listed. At the moment, more than 185,000 pages of information are contained on the Prestel computers covering a diverse range of subjects. The user is able to list such information by dialling the computer over an ordinary telephone line.

An employer using the Job-Tel system will be able to group the information on employers as he requires.

Business appointments

New Honeywell chairman

Mr J. S. McGregor has become chairman of Honeywell on the retirement of Mr L. Ralph Price. He will continue as managing director of Honeywell Control Systems.

Mr Paul D. Skinner has been appointed managing director of Celas Products. He succeeds Mr Colin Harris who has retired.

The Viscount Colville of Culross has been appointed a director of Wembley Stadium, a member of the BET Group, following his recent appointment as an executive director of the British Electric Traction Company.

Mr Denis Mahony has been appointed to the board of Control Data.

Mr Michael R. Ball and Mr Frank A. Speight have been appointed directors of the Association of British Manufacturers of Commodities a subsidiary of Bostead.

Mr Hugo H. Lever has been appointed as director general of CEFIC, the European Council of Chemical Manufacturers' Federations.

Mr David Saunders has been appointed managing director of Cordell Rieu Frezzer Centre and Mr Robert Gardner has been appointed managing director of Snowdon Frozen Foods. Both companies are subsidiaries of Arrol Foods.

Mr Ronald P. Hansen has been appointed as director of customer services in Europe of Bata Products Corporation. Mr Dieter Toechter has been appointed as general manager of Bata Products, Frankfurt/Main, covering central Europe.

Mr R. G. Tennant has been appointed director of the Association of European Manufacturers of Sporting Ammunition.

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British Sugar Corporation

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3-00pm CLOSING TIME

The Final Offer from S & W Berisford for your shares closes at 3.00 p.m. No acceptances received thereafter will be valid unless the offer has become unconditional today.

The terms of the offer are:
BERISFORD SHARES WORTH 360p*
OR CASH OF 335p
OR LOAN STOCK OF 335p

As a British Sugar shareholder, you should consider what the effect on your investment would be, should this offer lapse. Over 60% of British Sugar's shares could be put on the market.

Accept our final offer, now:

S&W Berisford

*Based on the middle market quotation for Berisford shares on 30th June, 1981 calculated from The Stock Exchange Daily Official List.

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The Directors of S & W Berisford Limited have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and the opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate, and each Director accepts responsibility accordingly.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Resurrecting the corporate bond

Inco's £25m unsecured loan stock has revived some fond memories of the days when the corporate bond market was a viable source of finance for British industry, and the make-up of the issue has also aroused considerable interest, coming in bearer bond form and offering a dollar repayment option in 2006 at a fixed rate of 13.9.

But although it is the first major corporate issue of sterling fixed-interest debt for nearly ten years, it offers little hope for potential United Kingdom corporate borrowers eager for fixed-rate finance. As the table shows, the domestic corporate bond market has been virtually dead since 1973 with redemptions comfortably exceeding new issues. High inflation, high interest rates and crowding out by the Government have all played a part in this, while the fact that many companies have been paying virtually no mainstream corporation tax has removed one of the principal incentives in raising loan capital—where the interest is tax allowable—rather than equity.

Hopes of a revival in the bond market have been consistently knocked on the head by the trend in interest rates. BOC, for instance, which was planning a bond issue, resorted to a convertible for this reason, and the 15½ per cent coupon on the Inco stock, giving a redemption yield of 16 per cent at the issue price of £98½, is considerably more than United Kingdom corporate reamateurs would be prepared to pay, or even be able to justify in terms of prospective returns on assets.

This of course raises the question of why Inco is prepared to raise such expensive 25-year money. It argues that it is simply paying the market price to raise the long-term finance it wants to match its long-term projects in the mining industry. It stands to benefit from falling interest rates on the two-fifths of its \$1,400m debt at floating rate anyway and it was also in

with the more conservative financing programmes of LMS's property interests, and although the group is currently highly liquid, a quoted subsidiary able to raise further capital would presumably not go amiss.

Whether LMS's efforts to transform itself from property developer into an oil conglomerate will advance through this bid is, however, another matter. Cambridge's mainly institutional shareholders have rejected advances before, and in a sector where values are largely subjective the group's prospects are more tangible than most. The Brae Field could be producing income of more than £600,000 by 1984 even on fairly bearish projections about the effects of the current oil glut on future values, while interests in Indonesia, Canada and Australia offer enticing possibilities.

But the warning from LMS that shareholders who elect to stay aboard may be called upon to put up cash for further developments could concentrate some minds wonderfully.

BSC/Berisford

Day of decision

After a prolonged stalemate, S. & W. Berisford's bid for British Sugar enters its final day, a tantalizing 2 per cent away from victory. With the British Sugar share price 5p above the offer price of 335p, Berisford is pinning its hopes on sufficient institutions breaking ranks and accepting the share offer. At Berisford's closing price of 131p last night the share offer is worth 360p. But since this looks like being a dull year for Berisford, shareholders might be better off selling in the market, unless they have special reasons for accepting the shares.

So far the institutions have behaved cautiously. Apparently they feel that the arguments are finely matched, and have therefore been reluctant to commit themselves wholly to one side or the other. Both sides consequently have claimed institutional support. While fund managers have been tempted to take profits on their British Sugar holdings, particularly during the dawn raid that so nearly succeeded, they have also been influenced by British Sugar's much better profit outlook for 1981, and by its higher dividend.

In the end the struggle should be decided on the arguments about whether a takeover would benefit British Sugar's shareholders. The advantages of a good industrial earnings stream to Berisford are obvious. Acquiring British Sugar is crucial to its long-range plans to reduce dependence upon increasingly difficult commodities markets and capitalize on the years of fast growth. But Berisford's claim that it can tighten British Sugar's financial controls and make the corporation more efficient is less convincing than the claim that it knows more about the market's sugar. After everything that has been said and done that is probably the most important issue facing undecided shareholders today.

● There are no prizes for guessing what is wrong with Ellerman Lines, still one of the top three private business empires in Britain and now trying to run itself more on commercial lines. It has lost the knack of making money.

Last year it had shareholders' funds of £93m and pretax profits of £1.8m, which, adjusted for inflation, turned into a £1.5m loss. As an industrial holding group, in shipping, travel, brewing, ships' storage and insurance it can be compared with, say, Norcross (shareholders' funds of around £87m and profits of £22m) or Powell Duffry (funds of £100m and profits of £12m). Neither has found the going easy, any more than Ellerman.

The group diversified away from shipping because shipping is cyclical. In fact, shipping did quite well last year but brewing went into reverse, travel lost money, Ellerman Commercial earned less and insurance went into the red. The group is conscious of its weaknesses. A series of divisional meetings throughout the group was held in May and it was split over that the group had two main weaknesses: an inability to generate cash, and, according to On Line, the house newspaper, a fundamental weakness in management capability. A stock exchange quote seems a long way in the future.

How the plant hirers got their sums wrong

Rosemary Unsworth

The withdrawal of bank support for Richards & Wallington Industries, which was announced yesterday, highlights the difficulties of the British plant hire business.

The group's decision to ask the banks to appoint a receiver came as some surprise to its competitors and the City since it was only in April that 24 banks put together a rescue package designed to avoid receivership.

Mr Roy Richardson, the then chairman, retired, and was replaced by Mr Geoffrey Parsons, former chief executive of John Laing. He only took up the job of chief executive on May 1 and City observers were saying yesterday that he had hardly time to start work let alone turn the company around.

Last year Richards & Wallington lost £5.4m pretax after making £2.5m the previous year. But the real problem was that borrowings reached £26.1m by the end of the year which was around 200 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Although plant hire groups are traditionally big borrowers this level of debt brought the group to the edge of breaking its articles of association under which bank borrowings should not be more than twice shareholders' funds.

But behind Richards & Wallington's demise lies a story of over-optimistic expansion, particularly in the last couple of years.

The company was buying new equipment which it found it could neither hire, as the recession hits its customers, nor sell in the second-hand market which was itself in decline.

At the same time, the steel strike cost it more than £1m in 1980 and the national crane drivers' strike last autumn another £1.8m at the pretax level. Finally, the liquidation of its half-owned crane manufacturer, Cosmos, and other write-offs as well as exchange fluctuations cost Richards & Wallington a further £1.6m.

Richards & Wallington is far from the only victim in the plant hire sector. All the other publicly quoted companies, of which the largest is Hewden-Stuart Plant with a turnover of £60m (about 8 per cent of the market) in 1981, are finding themselves working at about 50 per cent capacity.

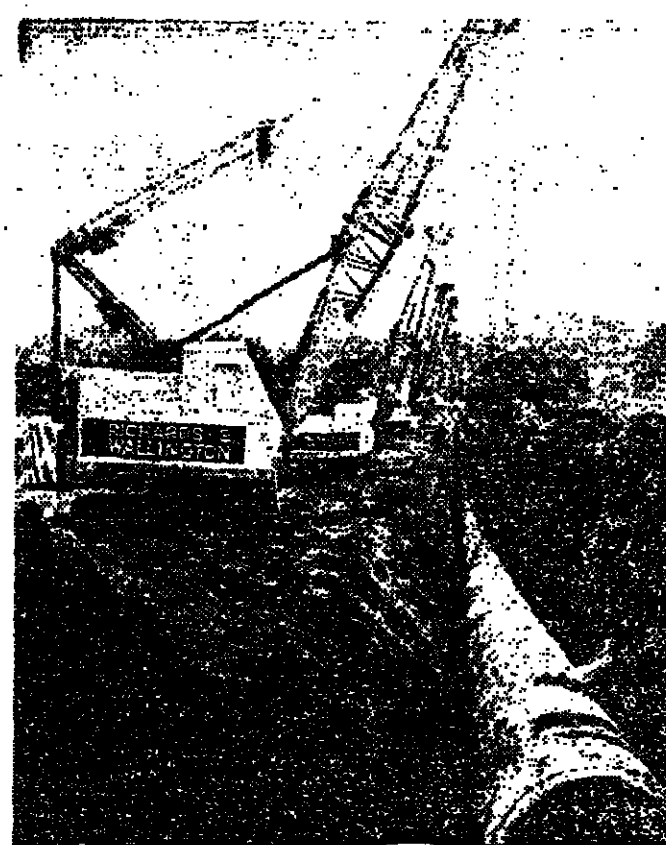
Capacity for plant hirers should normally be around 80 per cent but it is now reckoned to average 50 per cent particularly for cranes, and some companies have fallen below even that level.

The SGB Group, which published its interim profits yesterday, said that its plant hire division's capacity in Scotland was down to 25 per cent and that the operation was undergoing a difficult period.

The drop in activity in the North Sea has also hurt the market, as has the depression in petrochemicals. The result is that an industry where excess capacity has been a long-standing problem, is now in deep trouble as competition steps up. Richards & Wallington was among the most aggressive price cutters in the business but, despite this policy, at the time that the banks intervened most of the group's fixed assets of £29m were invested in cranes, which are almost impossible to sell.

The most important element of plant hire finance is depreciation, which enables the groups to replace assets through a heavy charge and is often the dominant constituent of cash flow. One analyst stressed yesterday that the only way for a hire group to survive during a worldwide construction recession when margins are tight and the second-hand market is in collapse, as at present, is to chase larger first-year depreciation.

In the past, after the equipment was depreciated it was sold abroad but even the Far East and South America, following the lead set by the Middle East, have cut back on their purchases.



Richards & Wallington cranes—in better days—laying a natural gas pipeline in Staffordshire.

The smaller private companies which make up the rest of the business have also played an important role in the present crisis. Usually family-controlled enterprises, they have been better placed to deal with the failure of the hire rates to keep pace with the price of new equipment and without the large capital investment of the larger groups, may end up riding out the recession in less disastrous shape.

But it is clear that until there is a recovery in the construction industry, which accounts for 45 per cent of the demand for plant hire, there is no hope of improvement for the sector, although the stock market is convinced that any further collapses of public companies in the business are unlikely.

Rupert Morris looks at a group of Lancashire cooperatives

The Skelmersdale experiment—success or splendid failure?

The idea of community business was first put into practice in the early nineteenth century by the 'Utopian socialist' Robert Owen.

Today, somewhat incongruously, it is being actively encouraged by a Conservative government. But many of the same difficulties remain, perhaps because of the conflict between the need for commercial viability and the desire to benefit the community.

The Community Enterprise Programme, which has replaced the Special Temporary Employment Programme, will consume £76.6m of the Manpower Services Commission's funds this year—almost double the 1980 budget for Step.

If the next few years or decades are to produce a lasting equivalent of Owen's self-supporting community of New Lanark, then it could be Skelmersdale, a recession-hit town in the heart of the thriving Lancashire textile industry.

In Skelmersdale, where council houses seem to be perched on traffic islands and even the locals get lost from time to time, one in five is unemployed, and at election times the Labour candidate is more likely to be worried by a Workers' Revolutionary Party rival than a Liberal or Conservative.

One of the most bitter blows the area has suffered was the closure of the Courtauld factory in 1976, making 5,000 immediately redundant. It was the response to that closure which paved the way for the creation of the cooperatives and training workshops which make up the heart of the town's new life.

Known as the Association of North-West Worker Industries, Courtauld shop stewards and leading figures on the Labour group of Lancashire County Council contested but rejected the idea of a textile cooperative. Instead they set out to create a centrally controlled network of cooperatives.

Until yesterday, there were three cooperatives in Skelmersdale: Clogora, founded in 1977 with assistance from the Creation Scheme, to repair and refurbish shop furniture, Unit Furniture, a small firm which was purchased with a £60,000



Gilbert Fletcher (left), senior supervisor at the Skelmersdale training workshops with 17-year-old trainee Mark Taylor.

government loan, and Costone Engineering, which makes metal pallets and containers.

Yesterday, Unit Furniture ceased trading, a victim of the recession and a decline in demand. Another factor, according to a member of the board, was the failure of one big customer to pay its bills.

For the moment, the future of 35 employees is in doubt, although it is hoped that their jobs can be saved. Alongside the cooperatives are the training workshops, 90 per cent financed by the MSC, employing 25 adult training staff and providing jobs for 120 young people.

Control of the cooperatives and workshops is exercised through a holding company with a board of 12 members, including county councillors, two trade union officials and a representative of the Co-operative Union. Worker directors from each co-

operative, also serve on the board.

The Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies has just agreed that each cooperative company will be registered as a "benefit of the community society", while the holding company will be registered as a charitable trust, to be called the Association of North-West Worker Industries.

The holding company's turnover this year is expected to be £1,250,000, but with the help of Mr George Moore, a 56-year-old former Department of Industry civil servant who is acting as full-time consultant, there are plans for expansion, in spite of the demise of one cooperative.

Funds are being sought from local authorities—Manchester City Council has already offered £150,000—and the association's

unofficial three-year target is to create 10 cooperatives and 10 training workshops, giving full-time jobs to 500 adults and training places to 1,200 school leavers.

The essential feature of this sort of community business is that it aims to grow organically—keeping young people in work, identifying the community's consumer needs, starting new cooperatives to satisfy that demand, and then ploughing back any profits into the group for expansion.

Straightforward worker-cooperatives are entirely different because they give absolute control to the workers who may, if they become profitable, sell up and move on.

Labour relations, having survived teething troubles with dedicated troublemakers who were as determined to disrupt the new machinery as they had been with their old employers, have become almost blissfully harmonious.

Worker directors are elected by the shopfloor, where they play a foreman's role, and attend board meetings once a month. Although the board, for the most part, consists of the workers, there has been a general acceptance that union membership is more or less irrelevant.

As Mr Moore put it: "I believe we're going to demonstrate that the traditional structure of authority and the relationships between people at different levels and areas of responsibility are completely outmoded."

It was in retrospect, both ironic and poignant that I should have been able to witness this new spirit of co-operation only a few days before yesterday's bombshell hit Unit Furniture.

"The atmosphere here is like a family," said Mr Leonard Henthorn, the ruddy-faced production manager. "Jobs are so difficult to get, people are here for survival. There's no alternative."

Mr Allan Lanigan, a 28-year-old former unemployed joiner, had been a worker director for two years. He said there were

not many factories where shop-floor voices were heeded.

"You have a sense of commitment to the firm's future, and a responsibility for other people's jobs. It's frightening sometimes, but rewarding."

Mr Moore was realistic then, and his words sound all the more relevant now in view of the cooperatives' latest difficulties.

He told me: "You can't take someone from the shopfloor and make him a decision-maker. Working out a new managerial style creates an additional burden which we've borne for the past three years."

"Whereas we want to be measured in commercial terms eventually, we need patience. Moss Side, Manchester and Skelmersdale are not the ideal places to start a business. I've have to take commercial risks because we're trying to create employment."

For Unit Furniture, sadly, those risks have proved too great.

At least the training workshops are in no such danger. They exist primarily to give the young jobless some skills and knowledge of handiwork that can be useful even if they fail to find a job. But virtually nothing is wasted as the trainees have built their own canteen, which they run themselves. They sell much of their work, both to the cooperatives, and outside.

The training workshops are, in fact, the main hope for the future of Skelmersdale's cooperatives. For they offer the opportunity to test out new products, which could, if a market were established, then be produced by a cooperative.

Community businesses like Skelmersdale are springing up all over the country. What they all have in common is a need for management expertise and funds.

The Skelmersdale experiment may turn out to be a splendid failure, as Owen's New Lanark was in the end. It may be that the inherent commercial weaknesses of community businesses are too great. It will not be for want of trying.

Issues and redemptions of listed debentures and other loan stocks for industrial companies

| £ millions | Gross issues | Of which convertibles | Gross redemptions | Net issues |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1970 | 204 | 88 | 62 | 142 |
| 1971 | 259 | 37 | 58 | 203 |
| 1972 | 261 | 39 | 8 | 242 |
| 1973 | 54 | 22 | 35 | 20 |
| 1974 | 119 | 88 | 89 | 30 |
| 1975 | 90 | 7 | 102 | -12 |
| 1976 | 107 | 2 | 100 | -103 |
| 1977 | 35 | 28 | 111 | -76 |
| 1978 | 219 | 219 | 209 | 10 |

Source: Bank of England.

the Bank of England queue. None of which, of course, makes the money it is raising any cheaper and it is tempting to reflect that in a company such as Inco the cost of this loan stock is unlikely to have to be justified by the return on any particular investment. However, Inco was selling sterling forward at over £2.15 earlier in the year and with sterling now back to \$1.94 this helps towards the cost.

The dollar repayment option Inco is offering probably is worth only about 10p on the yield if sterling were to stand at \$1.50 in 25 years but along with the yield this should help to offset any concern about Inco's credit rating, which is only single A and the placing of the stock was completed satisfactorily.

LMS/Cambridge Petroleum

Going for an oil quote

Lord Rayne's unpredictable London Merchant Securities fired some excitement into a sagging secondary oil sector coming to terms with the oil glut yesterday with a 350p a share cash bid for Cambridge Petroleum Royalties. The terms put a value of £17.5m on Cambridge, which was floated with a capital of £4m in 1973 and which has a potentially lucrative royalty interest in the Brae Field. But LMS apparently is hoping to win a controlling interest rather than the whole group to provide a quoted vehicle for its own burgeoning North Sea and North American oil exploration.

These include a near 30 per cent stake in Century Power & Light with interests in the Maureen and Andrew fields, a stake in a seventh round licence, and North American interests—all of which require heavy financing over the next three or four years. These ventures hardly meld comfortably

Business Diary: A whole new ball game

This time last year, I was eating strawberries at Wimbledon and cycling Angela Rippon, but then as far as I am concerned, if you have seen one Wimbledon, you have seen them all. Yesterday, I went across London to Marble Arch, and talked to Phil Woosnam (below, right) about soccer instead.

Woosnam left English soccer on a high note in the 1965-66 season, when he scored the second of the two winning goals when Aston Villa beat Chelsea on the London team's own ground.

Today, after a spell as trainer and coach to the Atlanta Chiefs, he is commissioner for the North American Soccer League, the company which is owned by 21 professional soccer clubs in the United States and Canada, from the New York Cosmos in the east to the San Jose Earthquakes (George Best's team) in the west.

Woosnam is here as one of the speakers at Sports Summit, a conference and exhibition for people who market finance, equip and build for sport.

Of North American soccer, he told me: "British firms could get involved, either from a sponsorship point of view, or from an ownership point of view—there's opportunity to get in there."

He did let one interesting point slip in the questioning after his speech, when he told me that the NASL was talking to the authorities in the United States and Canada about introducing football pools.

The big problem, however, was "so much opposition from other sports to legitimised gambling."

In contrast with this country,

North American soccer crowds are increasing. The fans are peaceful, white collar—and many are female.

Not only are one in three spectators women in North American soccer, Woosnam said, but girls were also very enthusiastic players in the junior amateur leagues.

"I suppose one of the most important aspects of this, particular sports is that here we are providing opportunity for both sexes."

"Very rarely do you find this in any sport, certainly it's not a popular thought as far as the rest of the world is concerned, but I think it really is probably one of the keys as far as the future of soccer in North America is concerned."



Grounds for optimism: North American Soccer League's Phil Woosnam in London yesterday.



Women soccer fans will not stand for "language". Brentford's Brenda Cadman (left) and Spurs' Diana Louca in London yesterday.

According to Brenda Cadman (above left) who was also at Sports Summit yesterday, women do not get much of a look-in even as spectators at British soccer games.

Mrs Cadman is secretary to Ken Lacy, who is the commercial manager of the Third Division London club, Brentford United. This is a job she has had for the last seven weeks, although she has been a Brentford fan for 20 years.

"More women and more families would go to soccer matches if it were not for the hooliganism. I'd like to go to more football matches with my daughter (Nicola, who is eight), but at some grounds you can't really stand behind the goal, where the excitement is—and feel absolutely safe."

It was duller, if safer to head for the seats either side of a pitch, but even there the language could be too strong for tender stomachs.

I then moved on to talk to a German architect, Frank Herre about soccer, other than football, but somehow the conversation again got back to titles.

Herre is with the Weidplein partnership in Stuttgart, which designed the sport city of the Saudi Arabian, having built (by South Koreans) in Mecca in time for the Islamic Games three years from now.

I asked Herre if there were special design considerations for Muslim sportsmen, thinking he might give me some colourful suit about camel racing, relay runners using grenades rather than batons or huddlers, leaping over barbed wire, but he said there was not much difference.

Well, what about women not being able to compete in Mecca, I asked? "Ah," said Herre, "the Saudis don't approve of sportswomen and the Libyans do." What Weidplein did at Mecca, he told me, was to provide for separate groups of toilets and changing rooms, so that if ever there was a policy switch, all it was necessary to do was change the signs on the door.

Lloyds-Bank has just named the 14 winners in its China Clipper competition for sixth-formers. One winner, who will with the others go on a 19-day visit to Hong Kong and China is Simon Hewitt of The High School, Newcastle under Lyme. His dad happens to be manager of the Longton, Staffs, branch of Natwest.

Ross Davies

PEGLER-HATTERSLEY

Group results in brief

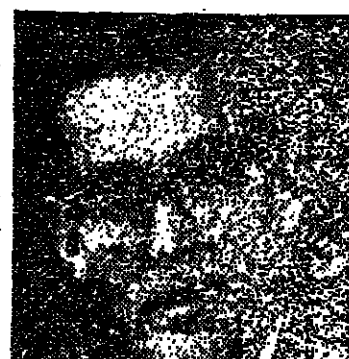
| | 1981 | 1980 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| | £m | £m |
| Sales | 112.4 | 109.9 |
| Trading profit | 3.7 | 8.1 |
| Share of associated company profits | 6.1 | 4.9 |
| Profit before tax | 10.9 | 12.5 |
| Profit after tax | 7.2 | 8.5 |
| Earnings per share | 23.4p | 28.6p |
| Ordinary dividends per share | 9.5p | 9.5p |

* U.K. trading profits were substantially reduced but there were improved profits overseas from associated companies and expansion of the distribution division.

* Profit on the sale of our interest in McEvoy largely offset the very high cost of reorganisation and redundancies necessary to meet the changed economic conditions.

* We have seen no evidence yet of a material upturn in the U.K. economy upon which real progress must depend.

Sir Peter Matthews, Chairman



Copies of the full report and accounts are available from the Secretary, Pegler-Hattersley Limited, St. Catherine's Avenue, Doncaster DN4 8DF.

BUILDING PRODUCTS • INDUSTRIAL VALVES • ENGINEERING COMPONENTS

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Heavy support for banking sector

Investors directed what little enthusiasm they had left yesterday at the banking and financial sectors, which were still awaiting the predicted takeover invasion from the United States.

Dealers reported heavy support for most of the favourite takeover candidates with prices generally closing at their high point for the day. However, stock shortages were reported to have exaggerated many of the gains, and jobbers were anxious to keep their books level.

Elsewhere in equities, the overall trend remained firm with turnover again exceptionally thin. Little in the way of a lead for investors could be gleaned from the uncertain outlook. The day marked the end of the financial half year for many of the leading institutions so their books were virtually closed.

The FT index, having fluctuated most of the day within narrow limits, closed 0.9 higher at 455.8.

Gilt, after their regular Monday morning flurry, encountered little new demand and even lost ground after hours in the wake of the sudden weakness of sterling. In longer, losses of £3 were reported in most cases, in thin trade, while at the shorter end falls of £1.15 were common.

Leading industrials displayed a steadier trend with Reed International 4p higher at 250p and Metal Box up 4p at 170p. Bower was 5p dearer at 270p, with smaller improvements seen in Bechams at 222p.

Glaxo at 362p, Unilever at 580p, Hawker Siddeley at 332p, British Aerospace at 236p and BOC International at 126p.

Shares of Richards & Wallington were suspended at 28½p as the company asked its bankers to appoint a receiver. Another to be suspended was Charles Booth, pending a further announcement.

About 10.5m shares of Senior Engineering were placed at 20½p to pay for its acquisition of the Murray Tube Works Division for £2.12m. Shares of Senior ended the day unchanged at 22½p. At the same time, Mr Leslie Connor sold 1.7m shares, or 21 per cent of the equity, in the market at the current price through brokers Fielding, Newson-Smith. Mr Connor now holds 22 per cent of the group, and the shares closed 10p lower at 115p, after a recent strong run.

Banks enjoyed another strong speculative surge helped along by stock shortages. Barclays raced ahead 8p to 44½p, Midland 6p to 33½p, Lloyds 12p to

405p and National Westminster 12p to 398p.

In financials, Mercantile House, with figures due soon, advanced 10p to 82½p. Insurance shares were also in the limelight as possible bid candidates with Eagle Star, in which Allianz holds 28 per cent standing out with a 1½p rise at 313p. General Accident

Shares of merchant bank Hill Samuel moved to 17½p yesterday, its second year's high in two days. Word is that the group, whose name has been linked with Merrill Lynch and Lloyds Bank, is in talks that could lead to a takeover.

and Guardian Royal Exchange both added 4p to 360p. Properties consolidated their recent improvements with Land Securities up 5p at 412p and Haslemere Estates 4p dearer at 408p.

SGB Group slipped 2p to 145p after its interim profits setback, but a strong second-

half recovery added 3p to Courts (Furnishers) at 77p with Jantar another strong candidate, 9p better at 29p, after sharply improved profits.

Brengreen fell 2½p to 58p after calling for 2.2m from shareholders with Second City Properties unchanged at 66p after brokers had laced the remaining 500,000 shares, or 19 per cent of its recent rights issue, for 2.12m at 60p.

Equity turnover on June 29 was £115.38m (17,115 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were RTZ, GEC, Land Secs, Bath & Portland, Cold Fields and First Castle Secs.

Traded Options: Dealers reported a slight fall in demand, with total contracts reaching 1,498, of which puts accounted for 183. Grand Met was the firm favourite on 569 contracts. Traditional options saw calls in Loraine Gold and Marivale averaging a rate of 15 per cent with a put made in De Beers on 25p.

Latest results

| Company | Sales £m | Profits £m | Earnings per share | Div pence | Pay date | Year's total |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Int or Fin | | | | | | |
| Brit Cinematograph (F) | 3.9(3.6) | 0.02(0.08) | 1.23(9.04) | 1.47(2.1) | — | 1.47(2.1) |
| British Tar (F) | 23.8(25.3) | 0.7(1.6) | 2.5(7.1) | 1.8(1.8) | — | 2.1(2.1) |
| Brengreen (F) | 17.7(14.2) | 0.7(0.4) | 2.3(2.3) | 0.4(0.3) | 3/9 | 0.7(0.5) |
| Courts (F) | 59.2(55.6) | 3.7(5.3) | 13.7(13.9) | 1.95(1.95) | — | 3.7(3.7) |
| Polymark (F) | 20.3(19.2) | 0.66(1.6) | 5.06(15.8) | 1.9(—) | 2/11 | 3.7(3.7) |
| SGB Group (I) | 65.5(68.5) | 4.97(7.55) | 6.4(13.8) | 2.3(2.3) | 17/9 | — |
| Macmillan Spacem (F) | 8.4(7.5) | 0.37(0.1) | — | — | — | — |
| Restored Jersey (F) | 11.7(9.5) | 1.05(0.94) | 21.2(16.4) | 3.7(—) | — | 5.5(4.5) |
| Wolverhampton St (F) | — | 0.026(0.019) | — | 0.75(0.5) | — | 0.75(0.5) |

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown; pretax and earnings are net. * = loss, † = mid October.

Brengreen makes £2m cash call

By Our Financial Staff

Industrial and commercial cleaning group Brengreen is raising £2.2m net in a rights issue of 5.2m shares at 45p. Holders of the 10 per cent convertible stock are offered two shares for every £1 nominal of stock, and ordinary shareholders are offered one share for every five.

Brengreen also announced pretax profits of £752,000, up from £505,000 for the year to March 28, on sales of £17.8m against £14.2m, and has increased its dividend by 40 per cent to 1p gross. It intends to maintain that this year on the increased capital. Directors and family trustees will take up 15 per cent of the rights issue. Dealings in the ml paid shares start on July 3.

The cash is for start-up costs on cleaning contracts. Brengreen hopes to win this year in March. It began a contract with the Southend council, and believes more councils could put part of all of their cleaning services out to contract this autumn. It is also pursuing school and hospital cleaning contracts and overseas work. Southern's start-up costs alone were £750,000, covered by an £816,000 rights issue last August, but it will bring an extra £2m in turnover to the group annually, and about £200,000 in profits.

Recent acquisitions will also contribute for the first time this year, as Jobmart did, for seven months last year.

Outlook grim as SGB slumps

By Our Financial Staff



Mr Neville Clifford-Jones, chairman of the SGB Group.

In line with forecasts, SGB Group, one of Britain's largest scaffolding and plant hire concerns, reported a steep fall in profits in the first half and sees no signs of improvement.

Pretax profits fell to £457m in the six months to March against £7.65m. Sales were down by £1m at £63.5m. Despite the maintained interim dividend of 3.28p gross, the shares dropped 2p to 146p.

Mr Neville Clifford-Jones, the chairman, said yesterday that the substantial fall in profits followed predictions made earlier in the year. "As yet there is little sign of improvement," he added. At the annual meeting in March he said that virtually no profits had been made in December, and January had been nearly as bad.

Trading in the United Kingdom divisions suffered most but results were helped by the 10 per cent increase in exports,

mixed results. The contract side traded reasonably well but the sale and hire of building equipment barely broke even.

Its plant hire business was particularly depressed and the group sees little prospect of recovery this year. In Scotland plant utilization capacity was down to 25 per cent compared with 60 per cent in the previous period.

However, the group's renovation concern, Peter Co, made profits of £200,000 and its open cast coal mining also saw improved trading.

Last winter's warm and wet weather was blamed for the poor trading at SGB's hire shops and DIY activities.

Interest charges in the first half rose to £1.9m from £1.67m but borrowings have been cut by £5m to £20m. This level is expected to continue falling in the second half.

British Tar falls but dividend held

British Tar, the chemical manufacturing, fuel oils and lubricants group, yesterday reported a fall in pretax profits from £1.58m to £707,000 in the year to March.

Sales in the period fell from £25.3m to £23.8m. But the final dividend of 2.24p gross, gives a maintained total for the year of 3p gross.

Mr Frank Backley, the chairman, said that trading had been difficult, with reduced sales volume and pressure on profit margins.

Strong finish slows downturn at Courts

by Catherine Gunn

After a poor first half, Courts (Furnishers) recovered its balance in the second half of its year to March 31. Full-year profits before tax are £1.6m, lower at £3.76m but include an increase of almost 8 per cent in the second half profits, after a £1.8m drop in the interim profits at £1.03m.

Dividends have been maintained for the year at 5.3p gross, and the 'A' shares rose 4p to 78p yesterday.

Trading conditions for furniture retailers in Britain remain difficult, but Court's overseas stores are doing well. Last year they generated a third of the group's turnover of £59.3m and nearly two-thirds of the profits. Their sterling profits this year will benefit considerably if the

pound remains at its current lower level.

Mr Edmund Cohen, group chairman, expects recovery in the United Kingdom to be slow this year, but believes what remains of the furniture retailing industry could do well next year, though starting from a very low base.

Court's trading profits last year came to £2.7m down from £7.34m, before depreciation and interest costs of £2.34m. Interest costs alone rose from £750,000 to nearly £1m. Property disposal profits of £1.26m, against £869,000, are included at the trading profit.

Four unprofitable stores were closed during the year, and four opened, including two overseas.

Briefly

Petrocon holding redistributed

A 12.7 per cent defensive stake in Petrocon bought by private company Madgel in August 1980, after NCC Energy's takeover had been redistributed. Madgel is one-third owned by Petrocon's chairman, Mr Peter Hodgson, who paid £143,000 for 350,000 Petrocon shares and now owns 13.9 per cent.

Sutcliffe, Speakman: Turnover for year to March 31, £8.42m (£7.58m). Pretax profit £24,000 (loss £30,000). Again no dividend.

Testured Jersey: Dividend 7.8p gross (6.4p) for year to April 30. Pay 28/9/81. Turnover was £11.7m (£9.5m). Pretax profit was record £1.05m.

Local Authority Bonds: Coupon on UK municipal yielding bonds was unchanged at 13½ per cent at this week's issue.

British Cinematograph Theatres: Turnover (excluding VAT) for year to January 31 £3.5m (£3.6m). Pretax profit £20,100 (£86,200). EPS 3.43p (5.04p). Dividend 2.1p gross (3.0p).

Restokil has acquired D and D Burger Alarms of Reigate, for £267,500 cash.

St George's Laundry (Worcester): Mr Peter Dellar, chairman, told annual meeting that, "Sales in the first quarter of the year were about £1.4m compared with £200,000 and although margins are under pressure he was confident of satisfactory results for the year."

Brascan has completed private placement of two preferred share issues totalling £200m. The proceeds will initially be invested in short-term securities.

Lyle Shipping: Recent rights issue was 96.5 per cent taken up. Mr H. A. Walkinshaw and Mr T. S. Shearer are retiring as directors.

Flight Refuelling (Holdings): On June 29, shareholders of Stanley, the United States aerospace company, voted in favour of acquisition by Flight Refuelling which will now acquire Stanley for a total of \$10.61m and completion will take place today.

Fife Forge has bought all proprietary rights in and to the range of mobile floodlighting systems. Made and sold under the trade mark "Simplon" for £193,000, satisfied in a single cash payment.

Audiovisual Holdings: In its annual review, chairman, Mr A. G. Macpherson, states that the board's first task remains the restoration of profitable trading throughout the group as a whole. That has not yet really been achieved and significantly better trading conditions further recovery is likely to be slow.

London and Liverpool Trust: Sales for year to March 31, 1981, £7.53m (£7.5m). Pretax profit £256,000 (£250,000). Total dividend, gross, 2.42p.

Mouton Brothers: Turnover for year to April 30, 1981, £2.78m (£2.92m for 1980). Pretax profits £273,000 (£202,000).

Chas Hill accepts revised bid

By Our Financial Staff

The board of Charles Hill of Bristol agreed yesterday to recommend the revised bid terms, valuing the group at £1.46m, on which the conditions attached to it by a consortium of Bristol businessmen.

With its 31 per cent stake, the consortium, led by Mr Alastair Milne of Phoenix and Mining Finance, now looks set to take over the shipping and contracting group.

The board has undertaken to ensure that acceptances in excess of 50 per cent are received. The offer was increased on Friday from 100p to 125p per share subject to certain conditions, prompted by rumours of a second bid.

All directors, including Mr R Campbell, who resigned on June 22, and Mr P Longbottom, have agreed to accept the revised offer, which is valid for the revised offer. These acceptances cover 31.6 per cent and include the 26 per cent already accepted by Mr Richard Hill, the chairman, and his brother, Mr John Hill, a director.

They had given an irrevocable undertaking to accept the offer, but did not recommend it.

Bank Base Rates

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| ABN Bank | 12% |
| Barclays | 12% |
| BCCI | 12% |
| Consolidated Crds | 12% |
| C. Hoare & Co | 12% |
| Lloyds Bank | 12% |
| Midland Bank | 12% |
| Nat Westminster | 12% |
| TSB | 12% |
| Williams and Glyn's | 12% |

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 9% over £50,000 10%.

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Securities valued at middle market prices.

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The Over-the-Counter Market

| 1980/81 | High | Low | Company | Price | Chg | Open | Close | Yld | P/E | Full |
|---------|------|-------------------|---------|-------|------|------|-------|------|-----|------|
| 76 | 39 | Airsprung Group | 68 | — | 4.7 | 6.9 | 10.8 | 14.9 | | |
| 52 | 21 | Armitage & Rhodes | 47 | — | 1.4 | 3.0 | 19.3 | 44.8 | | |
| 200 | 92 | Bardon Hill | 200 | — | 9.7 | 4.9 | 7.5 | 12.8 | | |
| 104 | 83 | Deborah Services | 101 | — | 3.5 | 5.4 | 5.0 | 9.5 | | |
| 128 | 88 | Frank Horsell | 103 | — | 6.4 | 6.2 | 3.2 | 5.9 | | |
| 110 | 39 | Frederick Parker | 64 | — | 1.7 | 2.7 | 27.8 | — | | |
| 110 | 64 | George Blair | 64 | — | 3.1 | 4.8 | — | — | | |
| 110 | 59 | Jackson Group | 110 | — | 7.0 | 6.4 | 3.5 | 7.5 | | |
| 130 | 103 | James Burrough | 130 | — | 9.7 | 10.0 | 9.5 | 11.9 | | |
| 334 | 24 | Robert Jenkins | 314 | — | 31.3 | 10.0 | — | — | | |
| 55 | 50 | Scruttons "A" | 35 | — | 5.3 | 9.6 | 8.5 | 7.9 | | |
| 224 | 196 | Torday Limited | 198 | — | 15.1 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 13.1 | | |
| 23 | 8 | Twinklack Ltd | 143 | — | — | — | — | — | | |
| 90 | 68 | Twinklack 15% UL5 | 80 | — | 15.0 | 18.8 | — | — | | |
| 56 | 35 | Unilock Holdings | 40 | — | 3.0 | 7.5 | 6.2 | 9.8 | | |
| 103 | 81 | Walter Alexander | 103 | — | 5.7 | 5.3 | 5.7 | 9.1 | | |
| 263 | 181 | W. S. Yeates | 252 | — | 13.1 | 5.2 | 4.8 | 9.7 | | |

Allied Breweries

in future to trade as Allied-Lyons



Extracts from the annual statement to shareholders by Sir Keith Shomerling, Chairman and Chief Executive

"Our traditional and well-known products are now strongly supplemented by the Lyons products and we are proposing to change the name of Allied Breweries in order accurately to reflect our present activities."

I am happy to report that although, as we had anticipated, the general economic climate and trading conditions remained exceptionally difficult throughout the year, your company has had another successful trading period. The profit before tax for the 53 weeks ended 7th March 1981 was £112.4 million on sales of £2.3 billion, compared with £113.1 million on sales of £2.2 billion for the 52 weeks ended 1st March 1980.

At the year end the Group's net borrowings had reduced by nearly £50 million compared with a year earlier. This was achieved by good control of working capital and by realising substantial sums from the disposal of properties not central to the business. While overall borrowings were reduced, we were able at the same time to invest record amounts in the licensed estate and in the business generally.

Our results are particularly heartening for a number of reasons. First they show a very marked improvement in the second half compared with a disappointing first half, when the difficult conditions were at their worst, and this augurs well for the future. Also

encouraging for the future are the excellent results from the food division, which demonstrate the rightness of our acquisition of Lyons and the re-organisation of the group on a three divisional basis.

All divisions produced good results. The particularly good performance of the food division emphasises that your company is no longer wholly dependent upon the sales of beers and wines, spirits and soft drinks, very important though these remain, and will continue to remain. Our traditional and well-known products are now strongly supplemented by the Lyons products and we have decided to recommend to shareholders that the name of the company be changed to "Allied-Lyons".

"What's in a name?" In reality, the name of a company is of very great importance. To describe ourselves as "Allied Breweries" no longer adequately describes the variety of our commercial activities and yet, for many reasons, we were anxious to retain the word "Allied" which we have had for so long. In our new title we are attempting to blend the old and the new — a highly appropriate exercise in view of our present activities.

OUR SALES TOTALLED £2.3 BILLION

THE ALLIED GROUP OPERATES THROUGH THREE DIVISIONS. THE SALES TURNOVER ACHIEVED BY EACH OF THEM IS SHOWN IN THE PANELS BELOW.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>BEER DIVISION £790 MILLION</p> | <p>WINES, SPIRITS & SOFT DRINKS DIVISION £789 MILLION</p> | <p>FOOD DIVISION £769 MILLION</p> |
|--|--|--|

Copies of the full Report & Accounts are available from the Company Secretary, Allied Breweries Limited, Allied House, 156 St. John Street, London, EC1P 1AR



Commodities

Query over new copper contract

It is questionable whether the London Metal Exchange's new "super cathode" copper contract will succeed in regaining some of the LME's lost ground as a market for physical copper, the *Copper Studies Bulletin* says.

It noted that the new contract, which comes into force in September, covers both wirebar and cathode, an arrangement which it said has practical advantages for the LME. But a consumer buying physical metal from the LME could end up getting 99.9 per cent copper wirebar rather than the high-grade cathode he requires, the bulletin said.

The bulletin noted that the LME is used mainly for futures hedging but added "for hedging to remain viable, contracts traded on the exchange must have such links with the real market transactions that hedging is designed to counter-balance".

The new contract will help to solve the confusion stemming from the present situation where the LME cathode quotation has become a reference price for secondary or lower-grade cathode, it said.

Discount market

Houses opened at 11 per cent or so, but moved there bids up to 11½ per cent without attracting much in the way of fresh funds. The rate dived to 6 per cent, although the bulk of final balances were taken in a range of 104-111 per cent.

Foreign exchange report

Narrowly mixed for much of the day, the dollar ended higher against most major currencies, though trading was flat because of end-month and half-yearly book night's \$1.9420. The trade-weighted index finished 0.1% easier at 94.45 after 94.5 initially. The calculation was made before the late down- turn.

The pound was quietly firm at first, but turned sharply lower in late trading, partly reflecting the dollar's strength and a sizable selling order from New York. It closed off the bottom at \$1.9305 over a cent off an last

Wall Street

[illegible][illegible]

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----|--------|
| off 1 | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| Gasparum was unchanged at 531. | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| It added a temporary restraining | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| order against Oklahoma's takeover | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| law's application in its 573 a share | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| ing for 35 million of Cosaco shares. | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| Cosaco was off 1 at 634. | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| Newmont Mining rose 3 to 654. | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| Peurtoil rose 2 to 463. Lundy was | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| off 14 at 56; Marathon Oil was | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| up 1 to 614 and Texasgulf down | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| 2 at 471. | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| Standard Oil of California rose | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| to 37, Texas Utilities eased 1 | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| to 53 and American Telephone lost | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| 3 to 561. | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |
| RCA added 1 to 23 in active | Campbell Ship | 230 | Texaco |

US commodities

[illegible]

Sterling: Spot and Forward

| Marketrates (day's range) | Marketrates (close) |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| New York June 30 | 1.063 1/2 disc |
| Mimral 52,716-52,800 | 1.06 1/8-1/8 disc |
| Mimral 52,716-52,800 | 1.06 1/8-1/8 disc |
| Brussels 75.00-75.01 | 25-26 disc |
| Copenhagen 47.1-47.22 | 540-740cr disc |
| Frankfurt 1.45-1.46 | 100-100 1/2 disc |
| Frankfurt 4.61-4.62 | 87 prem-100 disc |
| Madrid 1.35-1.36 | 110-112 disc |
| Madrid 183.50-183.75 | 97-250cr disc |
| Munich 11.00-11.01 | 110-112 disc |
| Oslo 11.60-11.61 | 97-250cr disc |
| Paris 11.12-11.13 | 110-112 disc |
| Paris 11.12-11.13 | 110-112 disc |
| Tokyo 427 1/2-428 1/2 | 110-112 disc |
| Tokyo 427 1/2-428 1/2 | 110-112 disc |
| Zurich 3.53-3.54 | 1.06 1/8-1/8 prem |
| | 84-90 disc |

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was down 0.1 at 84:1

Other Markets

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Australia | 1.5795-1.5845 |
| Bahrain | 0.7515-0.7345 |
| Finland | 8.3350-8.3350 |
| Greece | 112.45-115.45 |
| Hongkong | 10.7455-10.7855 |
| Iran | Not available |
| Kuwait | 0.5655-0.5455 |
| Malaysia | 4.4935-4.5225 |
| Mexico | 46.90-48.30 |
| New Zealand | 2.2715-2.2915 |
| Saudi Arabia | 6.6190-6.6490 |
| Singapore | 4.1325-4.1625 |
| South Africa | 1.7155-1.7305 |

Indices

| | Bank of England Index | Morgan Guaranty Changes |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sterling | 94.1 | % |
| US dollar | 102.0 | -30.5 |
| Canadian dollar | 102.0 | +2.6 |
| Schilling | 111.6 | -1.1 |
| Belgian franc | 106.1 | +2.5 |
| Danish kroner | 98.1 | -21.9 |
| Deutsche mark | 118.6 | -11.5 |
| Swiss franc | 138.0 | +38.3 |
| Guilder | 108.2 | +84.2 |
| French franc | 108.2 | +14.3 |
| Yen | 82.5 | +11.9 |
| Yen | 142.1 | -63.7 |
| Yen | 142.1 | +38.0 |

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971.
(Bank of England Index 100).

Dollar Spot Rates

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| eland | 1.5240-1.5 |
| anada | 1.2003-1.2 |
| herlands | 2.6678-2.6 |
| gium | 39.24-3 |
| ark | 7.4850-7.4 |
| a Germany | 2.3400-2.3 |
| riugal | 63.35-6 |
| in | 95.15-9 |
| way | 1180.50-119 |
| nce | 6.0089-6.0 |
| den | 5.7075-5.7 |
| an | 5.0788-5.0 |
| ria | 239.80-23 |
| ustria | 16.88-16 |
| terland | 2.0430-2.0 |

Canada \$1 : US \$0.8935-0.8

Money Market Rates

Bank of England M.L.R. 12%
(Last changed 10/3/11)
Clearing Banks Base Rate 12%
Discount Mkt Loans
Overnight: High 1 1/4% Low 6
Week Fixed: 1 1/4-1 1/2%

| | Treasury Bills (184) | |
|-----------------|----------------------|--|
| Buying | Settling | |
| 2 months 1 1/4% | 3 months 1 1/4% | |
| 3 months 1 1/2% | 3 months 1 1/2% | |

| Prime Bank Bills (184) | Trades (184) |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 months 1 1/4% | 3 months 1 1/4% |
| 3 months 1 1/2% | 4 months 1 1/2% |
| 4 months 1 1/2%-1 1/4% | 6 months 1 1/4% |
| 6 months 1 1/4%-1 1/2% | |

EMS Currency Rates

| | ECU central rates | currency against ECU | % change from central rate† | % change from adjusted* rate† | diverge- ment pips/mo |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Belgian franc | 40.7885 | 141.071 | +1.49 | +1.64 | 1.53 |
| Danish krone | 7.91217 | 7.92878 | +0.13 | +0.27 | 1.64 |
| German D-mark | 2.54502 | 2.52523 | -0.77 | -0.62 | 1.14 |
| French franc | 5.93636 | 8.12647 | +0.32 | +0.67 | 1.385 |
| Dutch guilder | 2.61213 | 2.68814 | +0.16 | +0.13 | 1.516 |
| Irish punt | 0.58145 | 0.58138 | -0.01 | -0.02 | 1.516 |
| Italian lira | 1233.92 | 1250.97 | +0.47 | +0.32 | 4.111 |

↑ changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes, w
currency.
- adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's w
divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-\$ Deposits

(%) calls. 17-18¹/₂: seven days.
18-18¹/₂: one month. 17-18¹/₂:
three months. 17-17¹/₂: six
months. 17-17¹/₂.

Gold

old fixed: am. \$421.50 (an ou
a. \$426 close, \$427.
uggerand (per coin): \$4
0.5 (\$227.5-229.50).
vereigns (new): \$105-107 (A
50).

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Ch
PA
Head o
Head o
Chambr
20 Bo
Spe
EXECUTIVE
STOCKHOLDERS
PA SECRETARY
CENTRO
AMERICAN COMP
IN KNIGHTSBRID
CH. LONDON
20 MARK
201 187
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SECRETARY

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for an appointment

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Residential Property by Baron Phillips

Banks start to take home loans seriously



Knight Frank & Rutley are offering this turn-of-the-century nine-bedroom house for £300,000. Known as Ruslip Hill, at Ivy Hatch near Sevenoaks, the property is set in 77 acres of gardens and grounds with excellent views over the Kent countryside.

Last week brought with it several notes of cheer for anyone who is house hunting. Perhaps the most significant of these was the announcement by Barclays Bank that it was cutting its home mortgage rate for loans in excess of £30,000 to 14 per cent in line with loans of less than that figure.

The move highlights how seriously banks are now taking the home loans side of their business. No longer will borrowers taking out mortgages of between £30,000 and £100,000 with some of the banks be charged a 1 percentage point premium.

Barclays also announced it was increasing mortgage advances from 80 per cent to up to 90 per cent of its valuation of the property. At the same time, the bank announced a savings scheme aimed at attracting the first-time buyer. If this scheme is successful, it will siphon money away from the building societies and into the bank. It will also make the bank seem more like a building society - after all, banks are in the business of attracting cash deposits.

The banks' incursion into the home loans market has come a long way since an American bank began offering mortgages for borrowers seeking loans of £50,000 or more several years ago. At least one cynic has suggested that it is the banks' way of dissipating profits and avoiding ever being caught for a windfall profits tax again.

None the less the clearing banks' involvement in the home loans market must be good news for house buyers. For the first time in many years, there is a wide range of lenders in the market from which to choose. This means there is a greater flexibility for borrowers who want loans well in excess of £25,000, traditionally a psychological barrier.

All the major clearing banks, together with three or four large North American banks, are happy to lend sums in excess of £25,000 and, generally, up to £100,000. At one time, the banks worked on the opposite principle to the building societies and their policy that the more you borrow, the cheaper it is. This is less true today. National Westminster charge a flat 14 per cent and so now do Barclays, while with the other two major lenders there is a small increase for higher amounts.

But what is extremely interesting is the way banks are actively seeking your mortgage business. Unlike the building societies, which appear to be far more interested in attracting deposits than lending money, the banks are fighting each other and everyone else to grant you a home loan.

Now must surely be the time to shop around the various institutions and decide not only who is offering the best deal, but who is going to grant a mortgage with the minimum of fuss.

If you are looking for a loan in excess of £25,000, banks may well be the answer. But do not discount your building society entirely. Although they are not especially keen to lend large amounts of money, a few of the major societies will entertain the thought. The Provincial, for example, say it has lent amounts of up to £100,000, but such cases are rare.

The drawback with borrowing large sums from building societies is the high interest rate. At the Nationwide, a loan of between £25,000 and £30,000 works out at 14 1/2 per cent, while a loan of £40,000 and above attracts an even higher rate of 15 1/2 per cent. Barclays' latest initiative on home loans makes these rates look extremely uncompetitive.

However, what might not prove acceptable to building societies may elicit a warmer response from your bank manager. When the Bank of Scotland launched its home loans scheme two years ago, it made the point that it was trying to attract parts of the market the building societies would not touch. At the time it looked as

revolutionary in these schemes. A handful of building societies already operate them and, of course, the Government has introduced its own weaker version.

At the moment, the building societies are happy to see the banks enter the home loans market in such a vigorous way. In fact, privately at least, they welcome these initiatives because they help offset the embarrassment of the long-running queues forming at building societies for mortgages.

The long-term future of bank lending in this sector is less clear. Bristol & West believe it may only be a temporary phenomenon, at least in the lower end of the house-lending market.

Temporarily or not, banks do offer a solution to the present bottleneck - and the time is certainly right to buy because the latest house price survey from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors indicates that prices have hardly moved over the past three months to the end of May.

Most estate agents taking part in the survey reported small price movements, if any at all - although in many parts of the country this only mirrors the general economic recession.

How long this will last is debatable. There is little indication that prices are going to go down as they did in many areas in 1974. At worst, they will hold steady, and if you are thinking of moving, this is probably the time to do it.

Meanwhile, another attack has been launched on the Government's obstinate adherence to the present stamp duty payable on house purchases over £20,000 by the House Builders Federation.

The federation, in making submission to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for amendments to the Finance Bill, is calling for the basic threshold at which point stamp duty is payable to be raised from £20,000 to £33,000. According to the federation an average house in London now attracts duty of £450.

It points out that when stamp duty was imposed in 1974 on all houses over £15,000, this was in effect a luxury tax because only 16 per cent of all homes attracted the duty. Today, more than half of all private sector houses fall into the taxable bracket.

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Picturesque stone and thatched former mill house with its own trout stream and private golf course.

2 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Electric central heating. Double garage. Gardens and orchard. Professionally built nine hole private golf course.

About 11 acres.
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About 12 1/2 Acres

ESSEX - Tending
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Charming and well modernised historic manor house with well known beautiful gardens.

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